

DARLING GARDENS
CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONSERVATION POLICIES

Prepared for the City of Collingwood

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in association with

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August 1993

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PART ONE: CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREFACE

Darling Gardens is located in the City of Collingwood in a residential area south of the Clifton Hill shopping centre. The 7 ha site is largely flat although the land slopes at the south-east corner. On three sides the site fronts residential development while the eastern side is bounded by Hoddle Street, one of Melbourne's main traffic thoroughfares. The road is, however, screened by a mature avenue of elm trees. At the west end is a semi-circular avenue of elm trees, a feature whose placement was possibly influenced by the earliest plan for the site in 1863. The garden is criss-crossed by a network of straight paths which converge at the centre, marked since 1906 by a bandstand. A Maternal and Child Health Centre was constructed in 1957 in the south-east corner of the gardens.

Darling Gardens was not ranked in the 1980 study of Victoria's historic gardens undertaken by Peter Watts but its significance was identified in Andrew Ward's Collingwood Conservation Study (1988).

The site currently incorporates a Maternal and Child Health Centre which is largely situated on land temporarily reserved for the purpose in 1956. Both the gardens and the centre are currently managed by the City of Collingwood acting as a Committee of Management under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act. The entire area is a Public Open Space reservation under the Collingwood Planning Scheme. The strip of land along Hoddle Street, although grassed and planted with mature avenues of elms and oaks is part of the road reservation, and is reserved as a Main Road under the Planning Scheme.

Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty in association with Context Pty (with sub-consultant Francine Gilfedder) were engaged on 17 February 1993 to undertake the present study, in accordance with an undated brief issued in January 1993 (included in Appendix One). In summary the brief called for the preparation of a conservation analysis, development of conservation policies and management guidelines. The study incorporated consultation with the community and this report has been largely shaped by this process.

The study has followed the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Burra Charter and its associated guidelines (see Appendix Two). These documents provide for the distinction between analysis of significance and policy formulation. This is reflected in this report where Part One comprises the analysis of significance and Part Two outlines suggested conservation policies and management recommendations.

The study has been greatly aided by documentary material provided by the City of Collingwood, the Carringbush Library and The Darling Gardens Group Inc. Our report has been based on research of Tina Meyer who has freely permitted use of her research notes. The document 'Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, Victoria: A Time Line 1852-1922', researched by Tina Meyer and compiled in 1993 by Tina Meyer and Graeme Loughlin (both members of the Darling Gardens Group) has also been kindly made available to the consultants and this document has been a major source of information.

For those with limited time, the essential details of this report can be gained from a reading of Sections 1.0, 5.0, 6.0 and 7.0.

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1.2 METHOD

General principles

This study follows principles laid down by the Australian Chapter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, an international body sponsored by UNESCO (see Appendix Two). In 1979 Australia ICOMOS, drawing on the work of its international parent, produced a charter for 'the conservation of places of cultural significance' (known as the 'Burra Charter' to commemorate the town where it was ratified). Guidelines to the charter were produced subsequently and these clarify the applicability and use of the Burra Charter. The major feature of the charter and its guidelines is to separate *analysis* from *policy formulation*. These principles are now well established in Australia and their use for a variety of culturally significant sites is widespread. This study has used methods compatible with the Australia ICOMOS Charter and Guidelines.

Terminology

This study uses terms and definitions which follow those in the Australia ICOMOS 'Burra Charter'. Therefore the following terms are used throughout the report without further explanation.

Place means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with associated contents and surroundings.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*. It includes *maintenance* and may according to circumstance include *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

These definitions do not necessarily treat scientific or botanical significance in the same light as a scientist or botanist may approach the subject, but reflect the emphasis of this report on an assessment of cultural significance.

Throughout the report botanical names have been italicised and common names capitalised. No attempt has been made to update spelling or nomenclature of plant names when used in direct quotes from other sources.

Assessment of cultural significance

In sub-sections entitled 'Assessment of cultural significance' (in Section 4.0), the following ranking system has been used to denote cultural significance.

A: of high cultural significance

B: of cultural significance

N: of no appreciable cultural significance or too recent to adequately assess

I: intrusive or an alteration which has seriously jeopardised the cultural significance of an area or component

The rankings are based on the analysis contained in this report and are the opinion of the authors.

A: of high cultural significance

This ranking denotes items that are of cultural significance on a regional, statewide or even national level. The main criteria have been period of development, historical importance, intactness or integrity, contribution to the Darling Gardens landscape, rarity or outstanding aesthetic qualities. Components from the early development of the gardens (such as the semi-circular avenue of elms) and work dating from the Edwardian era (such as the bandstand rockery and diagonal paths) have been recognised in this category.

B: of cultural significance

This ranking denotes items that are of local cultural significance. These items all contribute to the significance of the gardens although are of minor merit as individual items. The same criteria to the A ranking have been adopted although B ranked items are likely to date from later periods of development of the site, be of lesser intactness or not possess such high aesthetic qualities or rarity. They may rank strongly in one aspect but be downgraded in significance due to other factors. Examples of B ranked items include the cannon, the electricity sub-station and the row of elms and associated path towards the east end of the site.

N: of no appreciable cultural significance or too recent to adequately assess

This category is self explanatory. It has been used where items have no appreciable significance but their siting or presence does not jeopardise the significance of the surrounds (in which case they would be ranked as intrusive). Some components in the garden (such as the native garden) are too recent to adequately assess but do not form a major intrusion and have therefore been ranked N. Examples of N ranked items include the drinking fountains and the annual planting beds at the south-east corner.

I: intrusive or an alteration which has seriously jeopardised the significance of an area or component

Such a ranking has been applied to elements which downgrade the cultural significance of a component area or of the site as a whole. This intrusive impact is clearly distinguished from the previous category which denotes a more neutral category (neither intrusive or significant). Examples of 'I' ranked items include the bus shelter in the north-east corner, the loss of beds in the vicinity of the bandstand and the loss of the rockery at the south-east corner.

1.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

An analysis of the desires and aspirations of the people who visit the Darling Gardens contributes to an understanding of the social value component of the statement of cultural significance. Two methods of public consultation were employed by the consultants to involve this community of users in the process of defining the current social and cultural importance of place. It was the intention of the consultants to involve as many representatives of the user community as possible in this decision-making process.

Firstly, a simple questionnaire was designed to identify users of the park and investigate their current activities, 'likes' and 'dislikes'. The questionnaires were distributed to around 1800 residences in the surrounding area and also delivered to selected community centres and commercial premises with accompanying posters. The questionnaire doubled as an invitation to a public workshop.

The workshop was organised to assist in the exchange of information between the consultants and the public. The intention was to present the historical material researched to date and to outline the purpose and approach of the consultation process. Through discussion in smaller groups, it was intended to raise issues about the uses and associated meanings of all aspects of the Gardens. These could then be elaborated and prioritised to present a clearer picture of exactly what aspects of the Gardens defined its cultural significance. The format of the workshop was altered on the day to a format requested by the majority of participants.

Finally, a display and the draft report of the conservation analysis phase of the project were exhibited for a period of six weeks in the library and in a hall close to Darling Gardens. People were able to write their comments in a visitors book which accompanied the display, or to send more detailed comments to the consultants. Both methods of response were used.

The results of the questionnaire survey, the workshop and the responses to the display are summarised in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 and integrated into Chapter Three - Community aspirations for Darling Gardens.

1.4 CHRONOLOGY

1863 'Site for Public Garden' temporarily reserved with ornamental roads at each corner excluded from reservation

1864 First use of the name 'Darling Gardens' for this site

1866 Darling Gardens permanently reserved as a 'Site for a Public Gardens and Recreation Purposes'

1860s-70s Darling Gardens let for grazing and used for occasional sporting events

c.1868-69 Probable erection of earliest fencing around oval portion of the site

1874 Reservation altered from public garden to public recreation; additional fencing (or perhaps just entrances) erected

1878 Site granted to Mayor, councillors and citizens of Collingwood and the Board of Land and Works, with its purpose now defined as public gardens and public recreation

1881 New fencing and gates erected enclosing triangular reserves at corners of Darling Gardens; further fencing in eastern portion 1891

1882 Planting of semi-circular elm avenue and creation of associated path, triangular 'outer reserves' at western end planted and hedged

1891 Committee of management formed; earliest known reference to seating in Darling Gardens; small shed erected at south-east corner

1892-93 Rockery at south-east corner constructed; removed mid-1950s

1896 Planting of avenue along Hoddle Street reserve following earlier proposals

1899 Earliest known reference to a drinking fountain in Darling Gardens

1900 Toilet/shed erected adjacent to South Terrace; demolished c.1945-60?

c.1897-1901 Electricity sub-station erected (southern portion of building only); urinal erected at eastern end of 'inner reserve' (demolished 1908)

1905 Development of 'inner reserve' initiated; earliest known proposals to remove fencing from 'outer reserves'

1906 Bandstand erected

1907 Major planting of trees, especially along radiating avenues

1912 Earliest known reference to lighting in Darling Gardens (apart from lamp in bandstand)

1920s Earliest known reference to playground equipment in Darling Gardens

by c.1930 Cannon placed in Darling Gardens

c.1930-45 Creation of path at eastern end enabling a circuit walk to be undertaken

c.1940s Pergolas constructed at north-west and south-west entrances; partially demolished c.1979

1956 Permanent reservation of 1874 revoked, ornamental roads included in site, site for an infant welfare centre temporarily reserved and remainder of site temporarily reserved as a site for public garden, Collingwood Council appointed as committee of management

1957 Clifton Hill Maternal and Child Health Centre constructed, extended 1964-65

1964 permanent reservation of public garden (but not infant welfare centre)

1971 Proposal to temporarily site Collingwood High School in western end of Darling Gardens mooted; portable buildings erected 1972 and removed 1975

1975 Barbecues installed

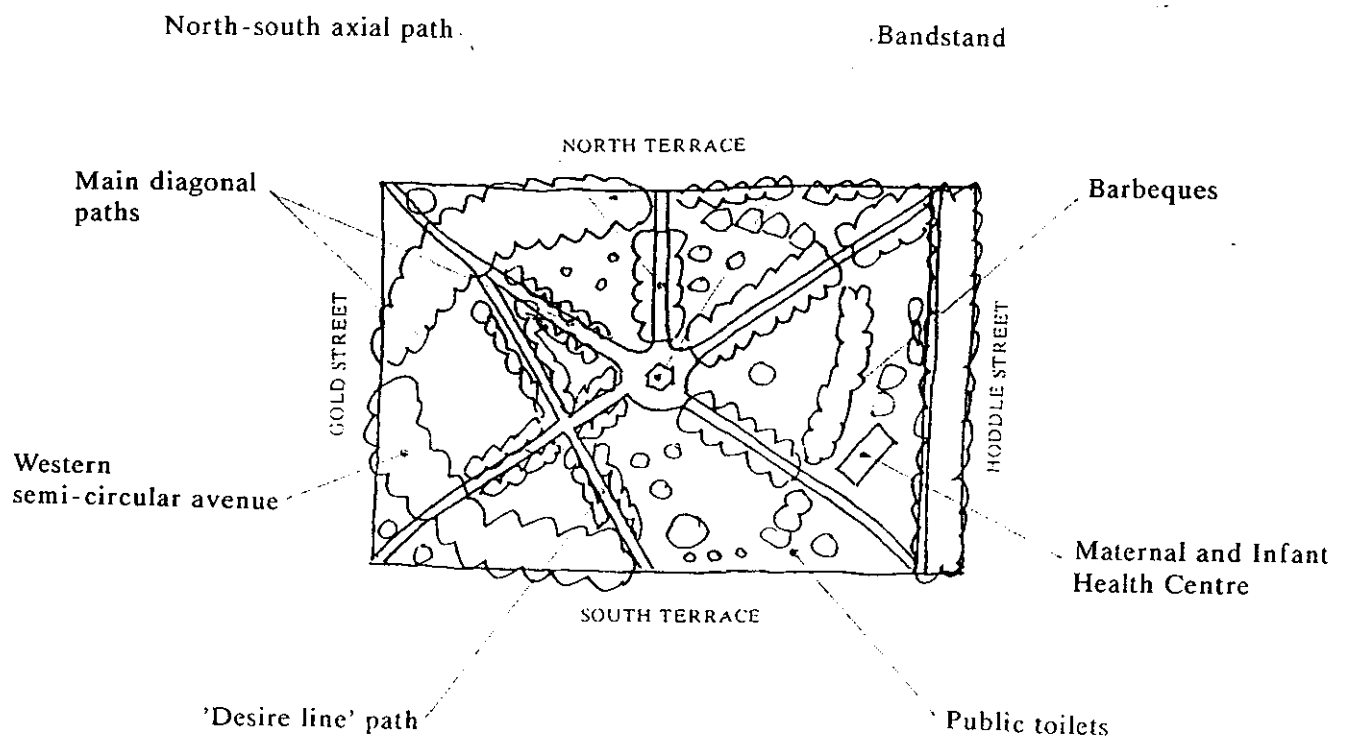
1976 Bandstand reconstructed

1978 Toilet block erected

c.1970s-80s Bus shelter erected

1985 Major new tree planting undertaken including 45 elms and 2 silver birch

Sketch plan of Darling Gardens showing main features



2.2 TREE PLANTING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT (1882-1905)

Following the new fencing at Darling Gardens in the early 1880s the scene was set for a major planting campaign. The fencing, which enclosed the triangular 'outer reserves' and ornamental roads at the western end, prompted an angry response from the residents of North Terrace. They viewed the council's actions as a threat to the eventual consolidation of a carriage drive through the gardens, a favourable feature in real estate terms and, according to petitioners, a major reason behind their choice of North Terrace as their address. Suspicion ruled the day as the residents angrily wrote to the Lands Department:

The intention [of the council] therefore seems to be to jump the corner pieces, as they are not marked in the plan as being part of the Gardens. As however their answer is of such an unsatisfactory nature, we hereby most respectfully beg of you to exact from them a promise of a definite and early period when they will remove the said fence and restore the locality to its original lines. (19)

The council responded to complaints by stating that their actions had been undertaken to protect young plants within the reserve and that the contentious fencing was never intended to be permanent (see Section 4.2).

No plan has yet been found to document this fencing, but a plan of 1885, compiled and published by C. Woodhouse, shows the western end of Darling Gardens in a form which closely resembled the eventual layout (see plan 9). The Woodhouse plan is the earliest known document to accurately depict the layout of Darling Gardens and is a far cry from the notional plan of 1879 (which still showed the 'ornamental roads' of 1863 - see plan 7). The Woodhouse plan is also fascinating for it shows a symmetrical layout to Darling Gardens; that is, an eastern semi-circular fence and pathway matching those developed on the west. Whilst documentary evidence exists for the fence, this plan is the most detailed one known to show a semi-circular path at the eastern end and Woodhouse may well have had access to a landscape plan of c.1878-82 which no longer survives. The discovery of such a plan would be a major new piece of evidence in the history of Darling Gardens. The Woodhouse plan (or at least the plan on which it was presumably based) may have been the catalyst for the protests by local residents as it does indeed show the alignment of the 'ornamental roads' blocked.

A contract with Hawthorn nurserymen James Scott and Sons was let in March 1882 to supply 468 Pittosporum, 80 trees for avenue [sic], 40 ornamental trees, 12 specimen trees large, 24 fast growing trees and 6,000 transplanted quicks [i.e. Hawthorn plants for hedging]. (20) The order was slightly enlarged and the amended contract supplied 8 1/3 dozen [i.e. 100] trees instead of 80. The 100 avenue trees were undoubtedly the elms which form the present semi-circular avenue at the west end of Darling Gardens; these are shown as young trees in a photograph of c.1886 (see photo 1). This photograph also showed the outer reserves along Gold Street planted with trees and shrubs with the inner side of the fencing (i.e. the side facing the planted portion of the reserve) hedged.

Management of Darling Gardens was an issue in the late 1880s when the council wrote to the Lands Department, anxious to have the site 'placed under joint control of the Board of Works and council - the same as the Edinburgh Gardens in Fitzroy'. (21) Such management was presumably never properly gazetted when the site was reserved (1863-66) or the land granted (1878). Joint control was approved in 1891 and the council voted a sum of £250 (matched by the government) for improvements to Darling Gardens. The first meeting of the new committee was held in February and during the following financial year the committee let contracts for fencing amounting to over £430. (22) In June 1891 the committee made an application for 200 trees and in July 1892 the Town Clerk wrote to the Lands Department requesting supply of 'about 100 trees for planting in that reserve [i.e. Darling Gardens]' adding that 'I should be glad if a few Elms and Oaks were included'. (23) No evidence of the supply of these trees has been found but in the likelihood that the government did provide them, it is highly likely that many were planted around the eastern semi-circular fence, forming an avenue similar, although perhaps not as regular, to the one on the western end.

A total of £500 was jointly allocated by the council and the government for the financial year 1891-92 and the bulk of the funds was spent on construction of rockery at the south-eastern corner of the site. Depressed economic conditions saw this annual allocation reduced to £200 (1892-93) and £100 (1893-94). (24) Such financial stringency tried the enthusiasm of the new committee and throughout the mid 1890s threats of resignation dominated the minute books. (25) Despite this decrease in funds, the committee acknowledged in 1895 that 'the Gardens are at present in a most satisfactory state'. (26) This view was shared by members of the local press who uniformly praised the garden and its management. (27)

The caretaker of the Darling Gardens Clifton Hill can claim he has made that erstwhile uninviting area bloom like a rose. Entering the Gardens at the south-east corner, the visitor surveys a grotto of real beauty, and he is surprised to find silver and gold fish disporting in pools which it would almost be thought Nature had provided. A few weeks ago the artistically arranged beds were gay with zinnias and chrysanthemums, but later blooms are now taking their place. (28)

Some weeks earlier the *Collingwood Mercury* had observed:

At the present time as a result no doubt of the recent bountiful rains, the Darling Gardens presents a very refreshing appearance, the grass is as green as the verdure of spring. (29)

A Mr Keirce was appointed curator during the mid-1890s and he continued the work of his predecessor. (30) The avenue of trees along the Hoddle Street reservation was planted in 1896 and attention was bestowed on the rockery and its surrounds. 'When this work is complete and these trees begin to grow', wrote the *Mercury* of the new avenue, 'the gardens will be shaded the whole length around, and will more than ever be a popular and health giving resort for families'. (31)

When praising the garden in July 1896, the *Mercury* added: 'The enclosure shows evident signs of the labour expended on it; the soil nicely turned over, the absence of weeds, and the neat appearance of the hedges, all tending to make the place a pleasant resort in fine weather'. (32) Yet public access to these enclosures (i.e. the fenced triangular reserves at the corners) was not permitted. Cr Wilkins suggested to the garden committee in 1896 that the gates to the enclosure might be opened to allow access for children during the daytime and that a few seats might be provided. (33) As early as 1901 came suggestions to remove the entrance gates (the writer referred to the entrance at the south-west corner as 'especially abominable') and over the ensuing years similar calls to remove the fences and incorporate the planting of the reserves within the open area of the site were voiced. (34)

Despite the enclosure of the outer reserves, the large oval inner reserve was the scene of much sporting activity and recreation. (35) In April 1898 came the earliest known reference to a band performing in Darling Gardens and this was a use which was formalised early in the new century with the construction of a bandstand. (36) Darling Gardens was the natural location of festivities in Clifton Hill and in May 1901 the *Clifton Hill Tribune* described a childrens' carnival:

In the Darling Gardens an immense concourse of people shared the pleasures of the afternoon. A little crowding was unavoidable, even in such a large reserve, but everybody experienced that enjoyment which a fine day, good humor, and happy associations can produce. Blondin performed his feats of balancing, the steam merry-go-round kept up a continuous whirl, overcrowded every trip, and the ocean wave whirled through the air heavily freighted with delighted childhood. Bands played and fun prevailed ... The scene at night was very pretty. Chinese lanterns hung from the trees which lined the reserve ... the bonfire was a fine structure built up of railway sleepers, and stacked with firewood blocks, surmounted by a tar barrel. Fireworks were shown from a framework specially constructed. It was a day and a night to be remembered. (37)

Various sporting activities were conducted on the oval reserve but reference to 'a fine crop of hay' in November 1899 gives a salutary picture of the state of the surface. (38) Such sport was conducted on relatively makeshift pitches but the earliest reference to a permanent sporting

facility - the first of many such proposals for Darling Gardens - came in 1903 when a proposed tennis court was abandoned, 'sufficient encouragement not having been given to the movement [for its construction]'. (39)

The issue of the enclosed outer reserves surfaced again in 1904 and Cr Trevena urged the necessity of having them 'thrown open to the public in hot summer weather. The trees would make fine shelter for ratepayers who used the gardens. The reserve might be thrown open while the caretaker was in charge'. Cr Wilkins replied that at one time the reserve had been thrown open, 'but the conduct of frequenters was such that at the urgent request of the residents they were closed up'. (40) This debate focussed attention on the gardens and during 1905 the work of the Darling Gardens Committee was reactivated and a council decision was taken to beautify Darling Gardens and banish cricket, football and other organised sports to Victoria Park and Mayor's Park. (41)

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE INNER RESERVE (1906-1908)

Following the decision to develop the inner oval reserve at Darling Gardens, the committee of management produced a plan which altered the layout and appearance of the site; it also effectively prevented future generations from using the site as a large scale sporting facility by forming several small compartments which created the overall design.

The plan of this work has not been located but it is possible that it was based on an earlier plan, implemented only partially in c.1878-82. An earlier plan may have made provision for the diagonal paths but left them unexecuted when the western semi-circular avenue of elms was planted in 1882. Only one path crossing the inner reserve - a track running from South Terrace to the north-west corner - had been shown on the c.1901 MMBW detail plan and this was almost certainly a 'desire line' providing a shortcut for residents of South Terrace and beyond to reach the commercial area in Queens Parade (see plan 12). In June 1906 Cr Coulson submitted a report of committee of management which showed that their work had been progressing satisfactorily. At the Gardens, the committee also met government representatives 'who expressed great surprise and satisfaction at the improvements to the gardens'. An adjournment of this meeting was made to Cr Wilkins residence where a committee meeting was held, at which agreement was reached on the erection of a bandstand (see Section 4.7). (42)

Expenditure on Darling Gardens for year ending 30 September 1906 was just over £400. and during this period (and the following year) the garden reached a peak of development not witnessed since the early 1890s. (43)

In June 1907 a local ratepayer (A. Cherry) urged the desirability of tree planting in the Darling Gardens 'on a more extensive scale than at present'. He envisaged local children attending a tree planting 'in order that they might be impressed as to the necessity as to protecting them'. (44) These ideas coincided with those of the committee of management and a local arbor day was scheduled for August 1907 (see photographs 3 and 4).

The event of the day was the tree planting at Darling Gardens, to which processions of cadets and children in holiday attire wended their way, with flags and foliage. They were welcomed by strains of the Clifton Hill Band on the stand and soon the gardens presented a most animated appearance, there being thousands of frolicsome children, an immense number of adults, and an endless line of perambulators and babies.

From the bandstand, the Mayor welcomed the crowd and introduced Hon Mr Mackey, the Minister of Lands who, with other high officials had come to witness the tree planting. Mr Mackey expressed his delight with the scene before him, especially as the object of the gathering was to beautify the city. He could not lay too much stress on the benefits of tree planting in populous localities. Every tree planted added to the lung power of a city, while every one inch of a reserve should be treasured.

The Collingwood Council deserved all praise for their efforts in beautifying the city, and generations unborn would be grateful for the work now being done by the council. He might mention that the Government was anxious to support public reserves, and were assisting the Collingwood Council in making the Darling Gardens the beauty spot it was likely to be. Mr Wilkins called for three cheers for the Minister which was lustily responded to.

Then the work of the tree planting began, led off by the Hon Mr Mackey, whose tree had to be kept straight by Lady Peacock while he did the filling in of the mould. About fifty or sixty holes had been dug for so many trees, and as each was planted by distinct individuals, and speeches at each, the business was rather tedious, and darkness drew on. (45)

Darling Gardens had been connected to the Yan Yean water supply possibly as early as the 1860s or 1870s although during dry seasons cautious use of water was required. During the summer of 1908, for instance, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works drew council's attention to the scarcity of water in the Yan Yean Reservoir and urged upon the municipality the urgency of conserving water where possible. (46) The toilets in the garden, erected in 1900, were sewered in 1908 and the reticulated water service to the garden was extended a year later (see Section 4.6). (47)

2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTER RESERVES (1908-1930s)

The question of removing fencing arose again in 1908 and the council commented 'that in all probability the fence at the Darling Gardens fronting Hoddle Street would shortly be removed'. (48) This work was undertaken in March that year and over the next decade the picket fences were removed progressively (see Section 4.2). (49) In 1911 it was recommended by the head gardener that barbed wire be placed 'around certain of the reserves' and photographs of this period (and later) show the old timber posts re-used to support wire (see photos 11 and 13). (50)

Vandalism was (and still is) a problem at Darling Gardens. Damage was caused to newly planted trees after the 1907 Arbor Day and reports of other instances were periodically publicised. The gardens were lit from at least 1912 and the bandstand had presumably been lit since its construction in 1906 (see Section 4.7). (51) Despite the lighting, complaints were also registered about undesirable behaviour in the gardens, especially at night; in this respect the urinals were considered an especial nuisance. South Terrace residents complained that:

the locality is a 'rendezvous' for unruly lads especially on Sundays and is 'used by an undesirable class who seem to have no sense of shame or decency'. (52)

Little is known of the curators and gardeners who worked in Darling Gardens. In 1911 Walter Patrick (married and aged 43) was appointed as 'working foreman/gardener' to superintend all the parks and gardens within the municipality and his application indicates the breadth of experience he brought to the job. He was at the time employed by the Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Committee, having charge of the Alexandra Avenue plantations. He had nursery experience and was armed with references from William Guilfoyle, Carlo Catani and G. Brown, curator of Metropolitan Parks and Gardens. He may have brought with him the influence of John Guilfoyle who was in charge of the Fitzroy Gardens, Curator of Metropolitan Parks and Gardens (until his death in 1909) and a populariser during the 1890s of the use of flower beds on the lawns there. (53)

In 1918 it was recommended that extensions of the cultivated plots at the south-east corner be made on the south side of the gardens along South Terrace instead of an earlier plan to plant along the eastern frontage. (54) Both areas were eventually planted and as other sections were developed the fencing was progressively removed (see Sections 4.2 and 4.5). With the development of the reserves, each was given a distinct name (see plan 15): Johns Reserve (along the eastern frontage),

Marshall Reserve (South Terrace, east end), Tapner Reserve (north-west corner), Dunkin Reserve (North Terrace, east end), Young Reserve (South Terrace, west end) and Kane Reserve (Gold Street, south end). (55) These names no longer survive in common usage. A cannon was placed in Johns Reserve by 1930 and children's playground equipment was placed throughout the site (see plan 16).

2.5 INCURSIONS AND COMMUNITY USE (1930s-1993)

By the 1930s, and certainly by the time of the 1945 aerial photograph (see plan 18) Darling Gardens had matured. The original elm avenues at the east and west ends were now 60-70 years old and the radiating avenues were 20-30 years old. Organised sport had been largely removed from the garden to other local venues and isolated proposals for sports facilities had been turned down by the Lands Department. In 1922-23 for instance, following a petition with 500 signatures, the Minister of Lands refused permission for a Ladies' Croquet Club to use the eastern portion of Darling Gardens for a green. (56) Of the structures in the garden, the bandstand was demolished (possibly the result of fire damage), masonry and timber pergolas were constructed at the north-west and south-west corners (partially demolished in c.1979) and isolated remnants of earlier fencing were totally removed.

A major incursion into the gardens came in the mid-1950s with the re-reservation of an irregular shaped block on Hoddle Street (at the south-east corner) for the construction of an infant welfare centre. Proposals for such a building within Darling Gardens had been mooted as early as 1927 and a second scheme (also unexecuted) was proposed in 1950 (see Section 4.7). The scheme moved slowly and in 1952 the Lands Department reported that the proposed excision of land (1/3 acre) comprised 'for the most part lawns and there are six oak trees and possibly one elm'. (57) Finally in 1956 the permanent reservation (dating from 1874) was revoked to permit reconfiguration of the site, the ornamental roads (from the 1863 plan) were now included in the site, the infant welfare centre site was temporarily reserved and the remainder of site was temporarily reserved as a site for a public garden. Collingwood Council was appointed as a committee of management and Darling Gardens (but not the infant welfare centre) was again permanently reserved in 1964. (58) The infant welfare centre was erected in 1956-57 and was extended to the north-east in 1966. New regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the Darling Gardens Reserve, Collingwood' were gazetted in August 1956 and so ended an intense burst of bureaucratic activity associated with the construction of the infant welfare centre. (59)

Schemes in the 1950s and 1960s for a fenced school oval, a pitch for ladies cricket and soccer club usage were either abandoned due to local pressure or prohibited by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey due to the purpose of the reservation. (60) Major proposals in the early 1970s for a swimming pool and council nursery to be sited in Darling Gardens met with strong local opposition and the Minister of Lands stated 'In view of all the circumstances he was not prepared at this stage to recommend to Cabinet that special legislation be enacted to complement the Council's proposals'. (61) The proposal in late 1971 to erect temporary premises for Collingwood High School also galvanised local feeling. (62) The existing buildings of Collingwood High School had been destroyed by fire and Darling Gardens appeared to be a suitable site, gaining the sanction of both the State Government and the Collingwood Council (who preferred it over the use of Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill). Despite strong local opposition by the newly formed Collingwood Residents Association, the buildings were erected early in 1972. The government had stressed their temporary nature and planned to occupy 'such portion of the reserve from early in 1972 until well into 1974. The Education Department has undertaken to reinstate the area to the satisfaction of the Council and to retain all existing trees'. (63)

The school buildings were finally demolished in 1975 and the area was grassed, but not without suggestions for other horticultural treatments (see Section 4.3). Barbecues were installed in 1975, the bandstand was reconstructed in 1976 and a new toilet block was constructed in 1978 (see Section 4.7). Sporting clubs still viewed Darling Gardens with envy and as recently as 1976 proposals were drawn up for possible inclusion of a cricket pitch at the west end of the site.

Collingwood Council ultimately decided to take no action on this proposal 'due to legal and physical constraints'. (64) Darling Gardens is used on a regular basis for school sporting activities and council has also periodically given permission for events such as the Collingwood Festival, a 'Nuclear Free Picnic' (November 1977) and a 'Community Youth Arts Festival' (October 1988). (65)

Concern about the condition of the ageing elm trees prompted the council to engage a tree surgeon (John Ashton) and during 1978 he reported on the condition of the trees. Several replacement trees were planted and the issue of the future management of Darling Gardens was heightened. (66) Such concerns also prompted council to commission a strategy plan, undertaken in 1986 by Land Research and Design Consultants. This was intended to guide the future development of the Gardens and was accompanied by formation of the Darling Gardens Strategy Plan Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting in December 1986. (67) Draft guidelines for the strategy plan were placed on exhibition in March 1987 but these proposals were abandoned following adverse reaction at a public meeting. (68)

The swimming pool, proposed for Darling Gardens in 1968, was eventually incorporated into a community leisure centre erected in Mayor's Park on land that had been set aside in 1866 as a 'reserve for recreation'. (69) Whilst use of the infant welfare centre (now known as the Clifton Hill Infant and Maternal Health Centre) continued for its original purpose, proposed child minding facilities and a small fenced playground to be used in conjunction with the leisure centre led to an Administrative Appeals Tribunal hearing in November 1991. In his determination, D.B. Logan upheld local objections and refused to allow a permit to be granted for the fenced playground (which was mostly to be located on the Darling Gardens reservation) or for the change of use of the infant welfare centre to allow for occasional child care for leisure centre patrons. The Tribunal also supported the call for a conservation analysis to be undertaken prior to any change which would jeopardise the significance of the site; the present study is a direct response by Collingwood Council to this need. (70)

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- 37 *ibid.*, 16 May 1901, researched by Tina Meyer.
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- 46 *ibid.*, 13 February 1908, Municipal Correspondence, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 47 *ibid.*, 11 January 1909, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 48 *ibid.*, 24 February 1908, Municipal correspondence, researched by Tina Meyer.
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- 54 *ibid.*, 4 November 1918, p.75, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 55 *ibid.*, 23 August 1920; see also plan 15, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 56 Reserve file, Rs 2906, letter dated 12 June 1922; Council Minutes, 11 July 1922, p.453, researched by Tina Meyer.
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- 58 *Victoria Government Gazette*, 6 April 1956, p.1656; 18 April 1959, p.2031; 2 May 1956, p.2255; 16 May 1956, p.2680; 22 April 1964, p.1277.
- 59 *ibid.*, 8 August 1956.
- 60 Reserve file, Rs 2906, letters dated 13 August 1959 and 5 February 1964; City of Collingwood file 112/1, 30 April 1967.
- 61 Reserve file, Rs 2906, 2 December 1970.
- 62 City of Collingwood file 112/1, 22 March 1971, 19 April 1971; Reserve file Rs 2906.
- 63 *ibid.*, 14 February 1972; transcript of statement by North Terrace resident and former Collingwood City Councillor, Marion Miller, n.d., copy supplied by the Darling Gardens Group Inc.
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- 70 Appeal No.1991/028793.

3.0 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS FOR DARLING GARDENS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

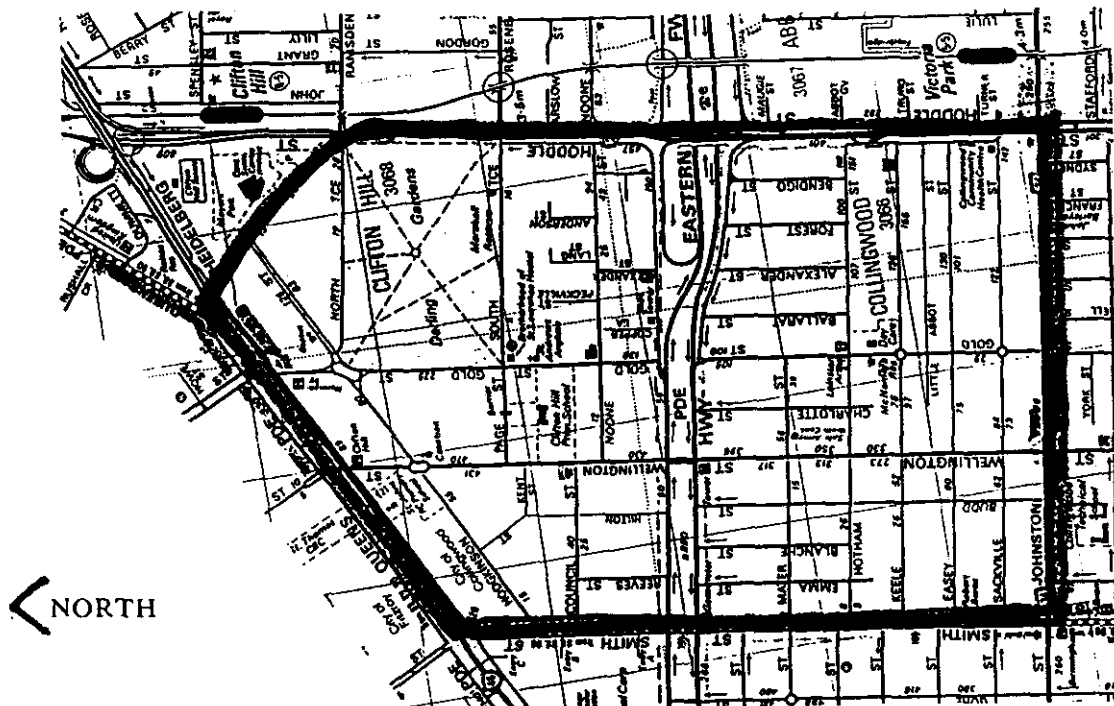
The following analysis of the aspiration of the users of Darling Gardens is based on the two public consultation approaches employed by the consultants, namely the questionnaire survey and the workshop. This information is presented in the context of a community profile and a summary of Collingwood Council's recreation resources and policies.

3.2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

A description of the demographic characteristics of the local community is a preliminary step towards assessing the importance of a place as a community resource. A catchment area was defined prior to the analysis of statistical data on population characteristics. This information describes the local community who are the overwhelming majority of visitors to the Gardens. Other visitors who have been observed to visit the park, but whose views have not been covered adequately by the survey or workshop, include users of the Maternal and Child Health Centre and others.

Definition of catchment area

The area chosen to define the extent of the demographic analysis and the catchment for the public consultation was determined roughly by grouping Australian Bureau of Statistics collector's districts. This was done after consultation with Council officers. In a previous 1986 census analysis, collector's districts had been grouped into 'zones'. For the purposes of this study, zones CH1 and C1 were amalgamated to form Darling Gardens catchment area. The map below illustrates the catchment area.



Map: Boundary of catchment area surveyed

The boundaries of the catchment area were chosen for a number of reasons. The area south of Alexander Parade was included because of its lack of public open space in comparison to the other areas surrounding the Gardens, where residents appeared to have equal or easier access to other open space such as Edinburgh Gardens, Yarra Bend Park and the Merri Creek environs. Secondly, it was assumed that the chosen area would approximate the 'natural' catchment for the area, being within easy walking distance, bounded by major roads which might act as partial barriers, for residents from areas outside the catchment, especially if they lack a vehicle or do not routinely use services in the vicinity of the Gardens. Finally, there were budgetary limitations on the quantity of house holds which could be surveyed.

Population characteristics

Census data for 1986 are the most recent data available at the time of this report.(1) A comparative community profile for 1991 would clarify some of the demographic trends which appear in the 1986 data.

The Darling Gardens catchment area represents approximately 12% of Collingwood's total population. Between 1981 and 1986, there was a decline in population in that area of around 10%, representing approximately 11% of Collingwood's total population decline.

There were declines in population in all age groups except the 25 to 39 year olds (which rose by about 10%), with a significantly higher percentage increase in the Darling Gardens catchment area as compared to the average for Collingwood as a whole. There were large declines in the under 14 year old brackets, with smaller declines in the over 60 age groups.

Overall, the census describes an aging population with an increasing number of households in mid-life cycle, and decreasing numbers of children of school age. 1991 census information would be useful to clarify whether residents in the mid-life cycle stage are starting families and staying in the area or are moving into the neighbourhood with mature families.

Responses from the questionnaire survey correlate with this population profile, with the largest proportion of replies coming from people aged between 30 and 50 years.

Other statistics from the 1986 census reveal a 17% decline in the number of overseas born residents. There were only two responses in the questionnaire from individuals with a second language.

The average household size of 2.3 persons in the catchment area was slightly lower than the average for the municipality. There was a 7% increase in the number of residents who were owner/purchasers and a corresponding 10% decrease in the number of tenancies. This could be seen as an illustration of the increasing desirability of Clifton Hill as a place to live and of the boom in the economy generally in the early-mid 1980s. This is also supported by the rise in the number of 2 or more vehicle households, indicating a general rise in the number of households with discretionary income.

3.3 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS IN COLLINGWOOD

In order to place Darling Gardens in perspective as a park resource in the local area, it is necessary to describe it in the context of other open space resources. The main source of information is the *Collingwood Recreation Needs Study and Strategy Plan: Recreation Needs Study* (1988). In addition, mention will be made of the neighbouring areas outside Collingwood which have comparable resources, such as Edinburgh Gardens (Fitzroy), and Merri Creek and Yarra Bend (Northcote and Richmond). Information regarding these comparisons was attained from the questionnaire survey.

Collingwood's Open Space Resources

The *Recreation Needs Study* summarises the distribution of open space in Collingwood, demonstrating clearly that it is unevenly distributed:

'The large[st] proportion is located in the Clifton Hill neighbourhood and along the waterways that form the eastern boundaries of the city. The western section of the municipality south of Alexandra Parade is the most disadvantaged in terms of open space.'(2)

The total amount of open space in Collingwood is 51.6 hectares with 10.4 hectares assigned to passive recreation. Darling Gardens is 7.1 hectares in area, about 68% of all Collingwood's open space used for this purpose. Yarra Bend Park is an extensive area of parkland and sportsground which is also in the Clifton Hill area but is designated as active recreation area.

Community comment on the *Recreation Needs Study* raised sentiments that were supported in the questionnaire survey and workshop:

'There is no doubt that parkland in Collingwood is valued by a large percentage of the community. The consulting process revealed many different opinions about the use and value of open space. The prime concern of most people involved was its use for passive purposes - especially for children's play, walking and jogging, and exercising dogs. It was clear that available open space was a major factor influencing the choice of many people to live in the Clifton Hill neighbourhood...'(3)

The *Recreation Needs Study* recorded 'exceptionally heavy' use of Darling Gardens for all of the passive recreation purposes mentioned in the survey and workshop.

Collingwood's Recreation Policies

Recommendations from the *Recreation Needs Study* stress that any proposals for the upgrading of the Gardens should incorporate its recommendations in relation to community consultation:

'While consultation with members of the community must occur in relation to open space, the needs and interests of the broader community must be a priority.'(5)

The study recommends:

- (18.) *The present level of open space for passive purposes be retained.*
- (19.) *Large areas of open space be regarded as a resource for use by the broad community, rather than a benefit for those living in the immediate area.*
- (20.) *Efforts be directed to increasing the opportunities available to residents in areas deficient in open space by:*
 - a. *purchasing land and developing small neighbourhood parks where compatible with other community needs.*
 - b. *promoting and developing sites in conjunction with other community agencies.*
 - c. *promoting existing opportunities in the community by providing information and specific programs.*

Other Neighbouring Recreation Facilities

Information gained from surveys showed that many people have minimal access to open space on a regular basis other than Darling Gardens. Almost half the replies, (46%) mentioned either Darling Gardens only or the Gardens and one other park. The most popular alternatives were the Botanic Gardens (22%), Edinburgh Gardens (21%) and Merri Creek open space

cultural background of families is predominantly Anglo-Australian, and income tends to be higher than the average for Collingwood generally.(6) Further research is required to ascertain the exact area of residence of most attending families.

There are obvious conflicts over the appropriateness of the Centre within this open space. Many workshop participants expressed the view that the centre should be located elsewhere due to the lack of young children in the area. While this demographic characteristic is supported by the census data, there is still a significant demand for Centre services, evident in the statistics provided by the City of Collingwood Department of Health and Community Services. The views of Centre users and the broader community should be more thoroughly researched in respect to future policy regarding management of the Centre.

Toilet Block

The toilet block was recognised as a necessity after initial criticism by the workshop group. The main problems were related to its attraction for 'undesirable persons' involved in drug or sexual activity, and also general pollution in the vicinity. There was little mention of these problems in the survey responses.

Play Equipment

In the workshop, the playground equipment had both positive and negative criticisms regarding its aesthetic qualities. There were additional comments about the lack of accommodation for older children in the most recent equipment designs. This was also occasionally mentioned in the questionnaires, with a stated preference for a mix of equipment types, appropriate to a range of age groups.

Trees

It was generally felt in the workshop, that further attention to the management of trees in the park was required. People recognised the historical and aesthetic importance of the established exotic species, and there were mixed responses to the later plantings of indigenous species. There was a preference for the reinstatement of the remaining half circle of Elms. Plantings at the South Terrace side were also favoured. These views were largely echoed in the survey responses.

Paths

The layout of paths was appreciated as having historical importance, contributing to the Victorian and Edwardian character of the Gardens. There was support for the development of a path under the circle of Elms and also along the South Terrace boundary for practical as well as aesthetic reasons.

Heritage character

The workshop discussion differed from the survey response in its emphasis on 'a sense of history' about the Gardens which was mentioned often. A large proportion of people in the survey appreciated established formal gardens as indicated by their alternative choices of parks. There was general agreement that features such as the basalt entries were too recent and altered to be of primary importance while the plantings and path layout were very valuable. The discussion did not clarify this notion of heritage priorities further.

Access

Most of the discussion and survey had reflected the very localised use of the park but both forms of consultation mentioned the importance of keeping the park open and accessible to all and that the Gardens had significance for a broader user group.

Safety and lighting

There were different opinions as to the adequacy of lighting in the park at night which was another issue which was explored in the workshop. Some people maintained that there was no need to make further provision as the Gardens (and parks generally) were unsafe after dark. Others argued that more lighting in the warmer months would be appropriate for picnickers.

Future management practices

Before the closing of the workshop, a number of issues were raised by Richard Aitken in relation to future management of historically important features within the Gardens.

Firstly, tree planting was raised as a conservation issue. Alternative options of replanting in sections or as individual trees died were presented. In answer, a participant pointed out that the tradition of planting on a tree-by-tree basis was the historical approach, however in respect to distinct plantings, such as the circle of elms, there was an apparent intention which could justify a more coordinated approach by today's landscape managers.

The reinstatement of features partially or completely removed was another issue. This had mixed responses. (see Heritage character above). The question of 'What is traditional character?' was once again raised and it was recognised that no clear idea of the group's priorities had been resolved. A vote was taken on the general question of whether or not reinstatement of earlier features (such as the fence or pergola entries) was appropriate. The result was 8 against: 4 in favour with the remainder abstaining.

Finally, it was generally agreed that there should be no further built developments in the Gardens, as the Victorian/Edwardian landscape was an important part of the Gardens' current identity, influencing the relatively passive use of this rare open space. These views were supported by the majority of questionnaire respondents.

There was overwhelming support for the continuation of the emphasis on passive recreation and leisure use of Darling Gardens as indicated by both methods of public consultation. Despite the emphasis on conservation, there were minor improvements suggested. Some features of the Gardens drew opposing views, which are demonstrated in the complete list of positive and negative qualities from the workshop (see Appendix 3). However, there are some proposed changes where there was general agreement amongst the workshop participants which seems to correlate with many of the views expressed in the survey. These changes have been listed below:

- Completion of circle of elm plantings
- Construction of a path beneath elm circle
- More bins, in more strategic locations throughout the Gardens
- Improved drainage on southern side of the Gardens
- Attention to drinking fountains and in particular restriction of dogs' use of these fountains
- Improved flower beds (with no consensus over details)
- Policing or closing of the toilet block after dark.

3.6 CONCLUSIONS

The responses from the two methods of consultation are basically similar in content and are representative of a dominant community group, specifically groups of residents aged between 30 and 50 years of age, residing in the immediate vicinity of the Gardens. This group tended to be concerned with retaining the undeveloped form and heritage character of the Gardens, and maintaining its use as open space for passive leisure activities.

The limited scope of the workshop resulted in a lack of qualification of the significance of Darling Gardens in comparison to similar places (see Appendix Two). Some comparison has been possible in the analysis of responses to the questionnaire survey (see Appendix Three).

Material collected from residents after the public workshop has been valuable as an illustration of the social significance of the Gardens, past and present. This collection of interviews and photographs vividly illustrates the subtle details of the Gardens which have sentimental value for the older residents and also encompass the aspirations of the majority of today's users.

This public consultation has been limited in its evaluation of the views of users of the park who reside beyond the immediate (within one block) vicinity of the park. Questionnaire replies from the more distant resident group, plus users of the Maternal and Child Health Centre, have been small in number. The content of these replies has not differed markedly from the dominant trends in responses, with individuals identifying themselves as users of the Maternal and Child Health Centre being in support of retention of the Centre. However, this community consultation has not been able to establish the degree of social significance attributed by users of the Centre, to the building, in comparison to other site options. Further exploration of this issue is desirable, in the event of the proposed relocation of the Centre building.

The information provided by the public about uses and aspirations for the Darling Gardens has been summarised as a statement of the social significance of the Gardens in Chapter Five.

1 J. A. Grant and Associates(1989): *City of Collingwood Census Analysis 1981-1986*.

2 *Recreation Needs Study*, p.99.

3 *Recreation Needs Study*, p.102.

4 See table 7 *Recreation Needs Study*, p.109 and attached appendices.

5 *Recreation Needs Study*, p.114

6 Information from Linda Bennet, Department of Health and Community Services, City of Collingwood.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF DARLING GARDENS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section analyses various physical components of Darling Gardens. It does this by examining their history and current state. This information, combining documentary and physical sources, is then analysed and the conclusions are presented in an assessment of cultural significance. The ranking system for this analysis is explained in Section 1.2. Use is made where necessary of comparative diagrams to present the history and analysis. Reference is also made to early photographs and plans which are included in Appendix Six.

4.2 FORM AND DESIGN

History

The earliest reference to a layout for this site came in June 1863 when the land was temporarily reserved. Four semi-circular 'ornamental roads' at each corner were excluded from the reservation and, although probably never properly formed nor used for their intended purpose, they were a possible influence on the development of Darling Gardens since their alignment was not dissimilar to the eventual oval-shaped 'inner reserve' (see plan 2). (1) This configuration of ornamental roads was confirmed in the 1878 land grant and was shown more or less accurately on several contemporary plans (see plans 3-7).

The first fencing was thought to have been erected c.1868-69 (see Section 4.7). Prior to this the site had been grazed. By August 1875 the oval section formed roughly by the ornamental roads had been fenced and the grazing (contrary to the purpose of the grant but approved of by the Board of Land and Works) continued. (2) The perimeter of the site was apparently fenced in 1881 leading to the creation of enclosed reserves, roughly triangular in shape (at least in the north-west corner and probably south-west corners). This led to protests from residents of North Terrace and Gold Street who complained that the ornamental roads had been blocked. It is unlikely that the roads had ever been properly formed and the council was at pains to explain that the new 'outer reserves' were to protect new planting. (3)

Planting of the semi-circular elm avenue at the western end took place in 1882 and the two 'outer reserves' containing the avenue were also planted with specimen trees and shrubs (see section 4.3).

The Woodhouse map of 1885 shows the fenced 'inner reserve', triangular 'outer reserves' and a symmetrical network of paths through the outer reserves (see plan 9). The semi-circular path at the eastern end of the site has not been conclusively confirmed by other documentation and was certainly not shown in the 1897 MMBW detail plan although semi-circular fencing was shown at the eastern end (plan 11). The placement of several trees, however, tend to confirm the existence of this second semi-circular feature (see plan 26). What Woodhouse probably shows is the intent of the original design on a plan now lost.

An undated plan showed the western half of Hoddle Street with an avenue of trees set in rye grass and garden beds (see plan 8). (4) The plan appeared to be a proposal rather than documentation of existing works and coincided with new fencing in the western portion of the gardens. Debate about the width of Hoddle Street and possible incorporation of part of the road reservation into Darling Gardens recommenced with the appointment of a new committee of management in 1891. The Gardens Committee wrote in March enquiring: 'if council intends reducing by 1/2 chain the present width of Hoddle Street north of South Terrace and increasing the Darling Gardens by that amount. The joint committee desire to be favoured with the Council's view on this subject ... so provision can be made in the specification for fencing'. (5) The Town Clerk advised the committee that the letter 'was placed before the council and received, but no action being taken therein'. (6)

Footpaths may have been roughly formed as early as 1874, at which date Collingwood Council minutes recorded 'that four entrances for foot passengers be erected and the fence be repaired'. (7) The earliest known reference to footpath construction came during the 1891-92 financial year when the council expended £16 5s 0d 'Forming footpath and erection of shed'. This may have accounted for the proper forming and paving of footpaths leading from the corners of the site through the outer reserves to the main inner reserve. (8) Such paths were certainly in existence by July 1896 when the *Collingwood Mercury* correspondent praised the 'latest improvement', a pathway leading from the South Terrace and Hoddle Street corner 'which enables people to pass right through without soiling their boots'. (9) This latter path ran past the rockery (erected 1892-93) and, by means of small bridges, crossed the pond in two places.

The 1897 (160' = 1") and 1903 (40' = 1") Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plans show Darling Gardens at a major point in its early history, with the fenced outer reserves but prior to the main paths and tree planting in the inner reserve (see plans 11 and 12). The 1903 plan additionally shows a path leading from the mid-point of the South Terrace boundary to the inner gateway of the north-west reserve. A path ran between the elm avenue and each of the four outer reserves is crossed from the corner by a slightly curved path. The avenue of trees along Hoddle Street provided a screen of vegetation to the eastern boundary of the garden.

The outer reserves were generally kept fenced and locked although by the first years of the new century moves to open these areas were mooted. (10) The removal of fences was progressively implemented from this time (e.g. see photo 12), although wire fences were retained in some sections (see photos 11 and 13). (11)

In 1905 a decision was taken to develop the inner reserve of Darling Gardens, hitherto retained as an open area often used as a sporting venue. (12) The bandstand was erected in 1906 slightly off the centre of the gardens and this paved the way for a new layout of paths. These ran along the main diagonals of the site (linking existing paths through the outer reserves) and also running roughly north from the bandstand to North Terrace. Photographs of 1907 show these paths edged with rough basalt stones, projecting to a height of approximately 250-300mm (see photos 3 and 4).

The earliest mention of paved footpaths came in September 1918 when the Garden Committee reported to council that 'The footpaths on the western side of the gardens will be formed with ashes and tar at a cost of £15'. (13) Until this date the paths all appear to have been of earth or gravel.

By 1930 the garden beds at the south-eastern corner had been extended along the embankment parallel to Hoddle Street and by 1945 a new path had been formed at the east end to provide a continuous walking circuit around the garden. This latter path appears dark on the 1945 aerial photograph (in contradistinction to the lighter colour of the diagonal paths) and it may have been asphalt. The c.1930 plan (see plan 16) also showed a track running from North Terrace to the toilets in South Terrace but the dotted line on the plan indicated that this was possibly never permanently formed.

The Infant Welfare Centre was erected in 1956-57 and in recent years this had led to the creation of a second path roughly parallel to the eastern boundary of the site, leading south from the Leisure Centre (erected 1970s). As part of the reservation of land for the Maternal and Child Health Centre the four 'ornamental roads' (first reserved in 1863) were finally subsumed within the garden site. (14)

The semi-circular path under the western elm avenue apparently sealed with asphalt and with basalt edges is clearly shown in a photograph of c.1963-64 but has been grassed since that date. (15)

Major path resurfacing was commenced in 1982. The Public Works Committee reported in July 1982:

Re Darling Gardens footpaths. Council has allocated \$10,000 on current estimates to start on the re-surfacing of these paths (total estimated cost in 1981 was approximately \$45,000). The available funds are sufficient to do one diagonal path and possibly around the rotunda. All the paths seem in similar condition so it is suggested that the path connecting Sambell Lodge to Clifton Hill Station be surfaced first. (16)

With regard to the basalt edging, the report continued:

It is proposed to retain the rock and bluestone edging as it is (with some minor straightening required) and partially bury it with the asphalt resurfacing. There would be more maintenance advantages in removing the edging, but this would significantly increase the overall cost of the project. The proposed resurfacing will not prohibit the removal of the edging at a later date. (17)

Two motions were recommended and adopted:

- 1 Resurfacing of the Darling Garden paths proceed in accordance with City Engineer's report, to the extent of the currently available funds.
- 2 Council approve removal of the rock and bluestone edging along the paths as time and funds permit. (18)

Current state

The current path layout is shown in plan 25. Several early path locations can still be discerned by alignment of tree planting, slight changes in ground level, differential moisture absorption rates and evidence from basalt edging. All paths are currently paved in asphalt although the disused paths are now grassed. A concrete path near the Maternal and Child Health Centre has recently been relaid in asphalt.

Integrity

The main phases of path construction in Darling Gardens are shown in the accompanying diagrams (see figure 1 overleaf). These show that there are two main phases in the path layout:

- 1 The semi-circular path at the west and associated paths in the 'outer reserves' of the 1880s and 1890s which formed the commencement of the diagonal paths
- 2 Connecting of the earlier corner paths by the diagonal paths of 1906-07 and construction of the northern axial path

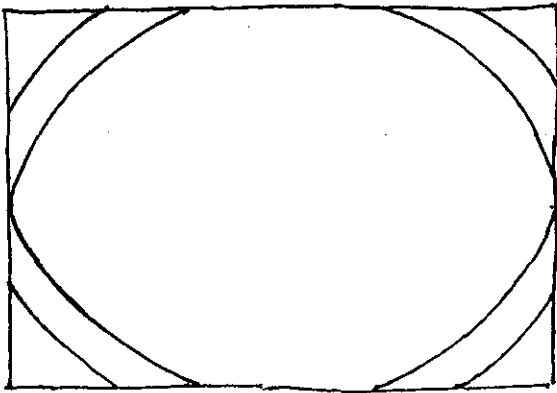
A third and subsidiary phase was the development of a 'circuit path' at the eastern end (c.1930-45) through an avenue of trees.

Evidence of each phase is still clearly apparent. Although the western semi-circular path under the elm avenue is now grassed, it was clearly evident as recently as the 1960s.

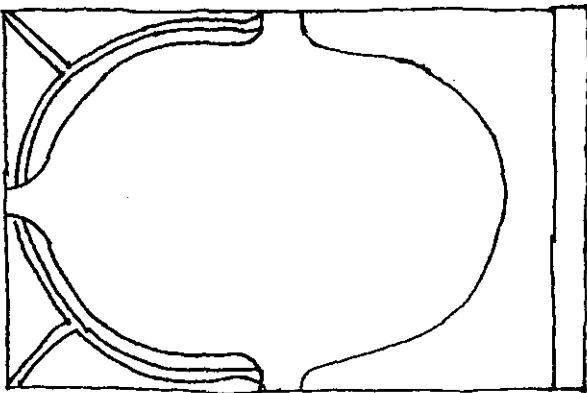
There are other more recent paths at Darling Gardens but these have generally been developed in a piecemeal fashion, responding to needs created by the location of newer buildings. In the case of the path from the leisure centre to the Maternal and Child Health Centre this may have duplicated the path under the c.1930-45 avenue of trees and caused the downgrading of this latter path.

The council resolution to remove progressively the basalt edges does not appear to have been followed and this has fortuitously ensured the survival of critical physical evidence about details of the early path layout.

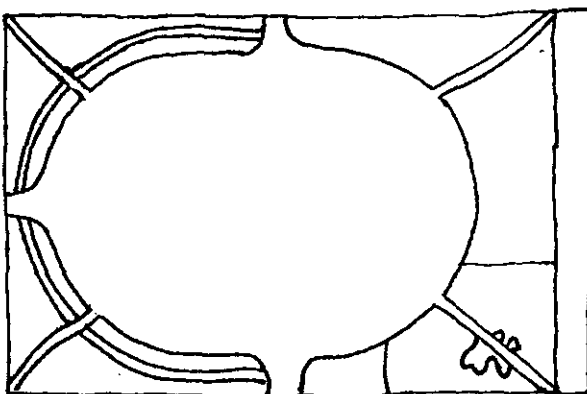
Figure 1
Darling Gardens: Form and design



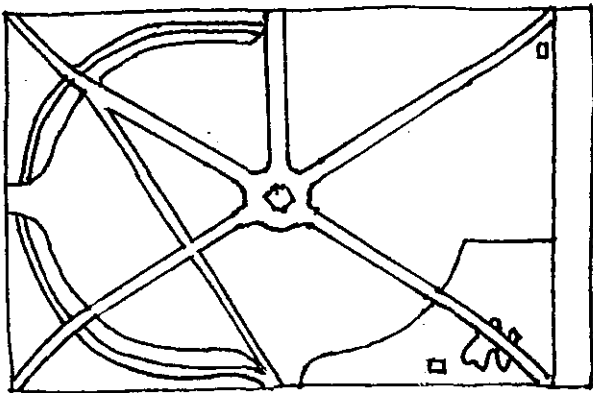
1863 ornamental roads planned; inner oval fenced c.1868-69



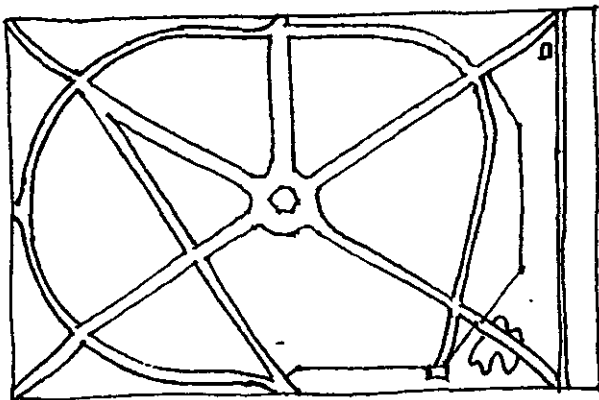
1881 perimeter of site fenced and planting of Hoddle Street reserve contemplated; elm avenue planted 1882 and paths formed



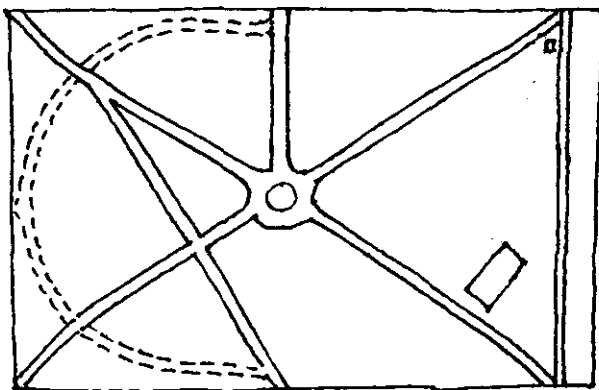
1891 eastern reserves fenced; rockery/lake created 1892-93



1906 bandstand constructed; avenues planted along diagonal paths 1907



c.1930-45 path at eastern end formed; shrub and flower beds along eastern end formed; path along Hoddle Street reserve formalised



late 1950s Infant Welfare Centre constructed; bandstand and toilet/shed demolished; rockery/lake filled in; remaining fencing removed

Analysis

The main layout of Darling Gardens, and particularly its role as an urban residential square, is strongly based on precedents from London and other European cities. The concept of residential squares has a long and interesting history but for the purposes of this report the following summary will serve to introduce the subject.

Squares were a feature of mediaeval towns and became a popular formal feature during the Renaissance. During the Baroque period, interest in the use of ovals heightened and earlier Roman buildings which took on this form (e.g. Colosseum, Rome, AD 75-80 and the Arena, Nimes) were mirrored in urban spaces such as oval piazza at the Capitol, Rome (Michaelangelo, from 1546) and the piazza of St Peter's, Rome (Bernini, 1655-67). During the eighteenth century oval forms were used extensively in town planning, often set within a rectangle. Figures 2a - 2f illustrate several eighteenth century examples from London and Edinburgh.

In 1803 J.C. Loudon wrote on squares, at which date most London squares were exclusively the preserve of local residents. Loudon decried the gloomy appearance of contemporary squares with their predominate conifer plantings and recommended the planting of deciduous species such as plane trees, sycamores and the almond, suggestions which were widely adopted. (19) In 1843 Birkenhead Park, Liverpool was opened as the 'first expressly designed municipal park, whose ground was dedicated for the free recreation of local residents; Joseph Paxton design, layout by Edward Kemp'. (20) Later, the English *Public Health Act* 1848 empowered local administrative bodies to establish 'Public Walks' and 'means of exercise for the middle and humbler classes'. (21) The role of the London squares was primarily for recreation not entertainment, and this was largely carried out in theatres and 'dedicated' parks such as Vauxhall Gardens or Regent's Park (with its zoological gardens). The London squares were located almost exclusively in residential areas and afforded recreation for local residents. They were designed in many cases as semi-private gardens exclusively for the use of residents of the surrounding residences.

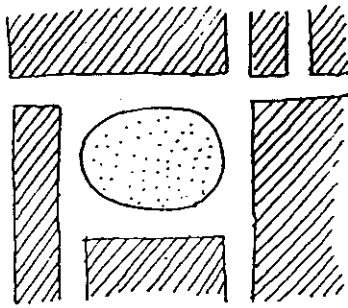
In America, Spanish colonial towns often incorporated squares or plazas as the spatial, political, commercial, social and often religious focus of the community - essential places, not amenities. Commons and residential squares were used for grazing animals, parades, militia assemblies, ornamental gardens and settings for institutional buildings, yet in America, like Australia, civic functions were more commonly directed at the main street. (22) In America, public gardens became widespread after the opening of Central Park, New York (1858).

In Sydney, the chaotic early planning provided few refinements such as town squares, Argyle Place being the best surviving example. Arthur Circus in Battery Point, Hobart provides a further example from the early nineteenth century. The renowned squares of Adelaide are the closest equivalents to the London squares, although these have largely lost their residential character.

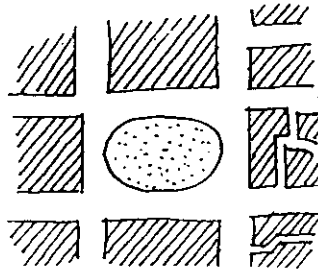
In Melbourne such squares were emulated in the 1850s and 60s in inner suburbs such as Carlton and East Melbourne as well as by examples such as St Vincent Gardens, South Melbourne and Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill (see figures 2g - 2i). St Vincent Gardens was perhaps based on Oxford and Cambridge Squares, London (1830s) where the layout of roads was influenced by the planning of the urban square (see figure 2g). In Melbourne at this early period, the role of entertainment was largely confined to private institutions such as Cremorne Gardens, Richmond (modelled directly on its namesake in London) and, in order to maintain residential amenity, the role of residential squares was generally limited to recreation.

Darling Gardens drew on both this tradition of residential squares and municipal parks. The width of the 'ornamental roads' on the 1863 plan suggests usage by carriages rather than pedestrians. The semi-circular paths at Darling Gardens bear a resemblance to a similar path at Fitzroy Gardens, planned by 1858 to replace the curved road connecting the ends of Grey Street and Cathedral Place; the path layout at both gardens may have been undertaken by Clement Hodgkinson. In their naming, South Terrace and North Terrace are both imbued with a grandeur that, although never fully realised in the building stock (especially compared to St Vincent Gardens), tells of confident aspirations.

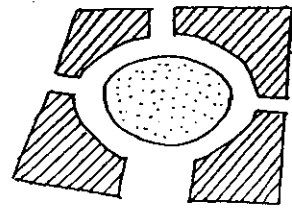
Figure 2
Comparison of Urban Squares



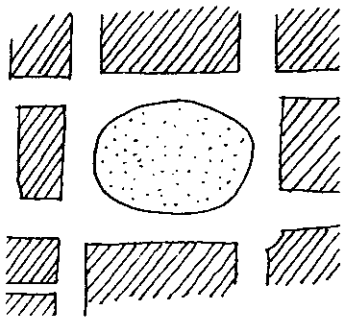
Bedford Square, London



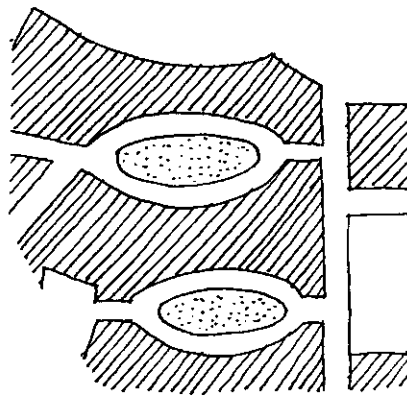
Portman Square, London



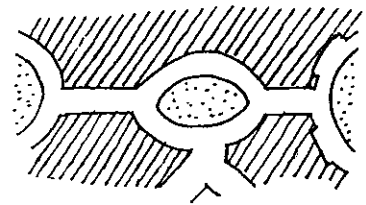
Finsbury Circus, London



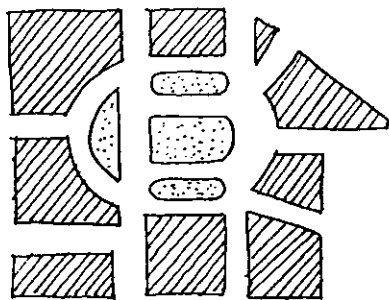
Grosvenor Square, London



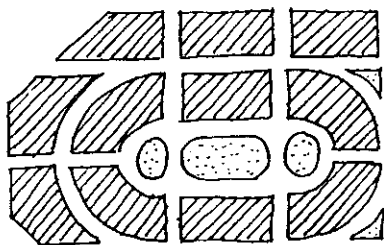
Eglinton Crescent and Glencairn
Crescent, Edinburgh



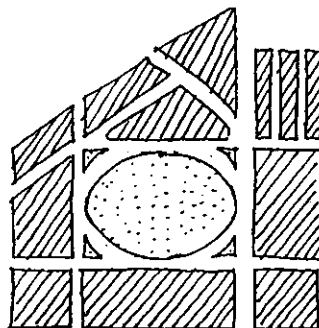
Ainslie Place, Edinburgh



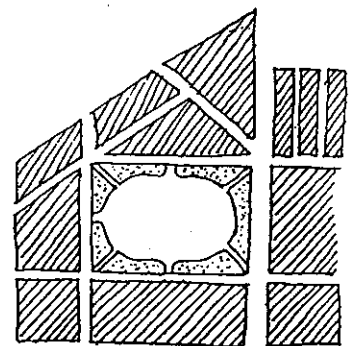
Oxford Square and Cambridge Square,
London



St Vincent Gardens
South Melbourne
(after Kearney, 1855)



Darling Gardens
(initial plan, 1863)



Darling Gardens
(after Woodhouse, 1885)

The 1885 Woodhouse plan (see plan 9) shows the layout in a manner which suggests that the author had access to a designer's layout plan (which is now lost). The western semi-circular path is shown as is a matching eastern path, probably never implemented but its alignment later planted with trees (see section 4.3). The path layout at Darling Gardens was possibly based on but does not follow exactly the 1863 layout of 'ornamental roads', being semi-circular when the layout of the ornamental roads appeared to be oval.

The semi-circular paths at Darling Gardens were planned with little functional use (in the sense that they lead nowhere) and suggest a purely recreational function as a promenade in the European tradition. By contrast the diagonal paths gave local residents a direct route to Queens Parade and the railway station.

The device of 'bending' the diagonal paths at the entrances has the effect of terminating the axial view within the gardens - containing the space - in contrast to the later South Terrace 'desire line' path. The bending of the paths also permits an element of surprise on approaching the site as the full view was not revealed until within the inner reserve. This device was extensively used in Fitzroy Gardens where most of the paths deviated slightly from a straight line.

The Edwardian era path layout may have been conceived as early as 1863 as the diagonal paths all join with earlier corner paths. This is conjectural but an early plan may yet be discovered to support this theory. These strong diagonal paths are a feature of mid-Victorian era parks such as Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Carlton Gardens, Fawkner Park and are not associated with any other Edwardian-era parks in Melbourne, pointing to their planning as part of the earlier phase of development at Darling Gardens.

Of the Edwardian parks in Melbourne, Central Park, Malvern is perhaps the most comparable in size and urban setting. The two sites share elements of formality, although the planning of the diagonal paths at Darling Gardens may be Victorian rather than Edwardian. These two parks are a long way removed from the informal character of say the path layout at Queen Victoria and Alexandra Gardens (Melbourne), Alexandra Gardens (Kew), Queens Park (Moonee Ponds), Coburg Lake, Wattle Park (Box Hill), Edwardes Lake Park (Reservoir) and Hedgeley Dene (Malvern). Footscray Park also incorporates many formally planned paths but this park too has an informal planting character and, with the exception of its central axis, lacks the dominant avenues of Darling Gardens.

Assessment of Cultural Significance

alignment of boundaries and associated paths: A
alignment of semi-circular path at west end: A
path leading from north-west corner to South Terrace: A
diagonal paths and north-south path to bandstand: A
alignment of curved path at east end: B
path configuration around toilets: N
path from leisure centre to Maternal and Child Health Centre: I
loss of semi-circular fence alignment at east end: I

References

- 1 *Victoria Government Gazette*, 30 June 1863, p.1454.
- 2 Lands Department reserve file, Rs 2906, report dated 19 August 1875, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 3 *ibid.*, letters of 21 June and 6 July 1883, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 4 City of Collingwood, plan 411.01.
- 5 Gardens Committee minutes, March 1891, p.3. No.3, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 6 Letter Book, 4 March 1891, p.514, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 7 Collingwood minutes, 7 October 1974, researched by Tina Meyer.

- 8 Garden Committee minutes, September 1892, No.11, p.36, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 9 *Collingwood Mercury*, 23 July 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 10 *Collingwood Observer*, 5 December 1904, 2 February 1905; Council Minutes, 9 September 1918, p.57, correspondence, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 11 Letter Book 1917-1919, 12 December 1918, p.716, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 12 *Collingwood Observer*, 2 February, 30 March 1905, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 13 Council Minutes, 23 September 1918, p.62, clause 4, Reports of Committees, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 14 *Victoria Government Gazette*, 18 April 1956, 2 May 1956, pp.2031, 2255.
- 15 Photograph courtesy Tina Meyer
- 16 City of Collingwood, City Engineer and Building Surveyor, office file 112/2, 1982-88, 26 July 1982.
- 17 *ibid.*
- 18 *ibid.*
- 19 Jane Loudon, 'An account of the writings of John Claudius Loudon' in *John Claudius Loudon and the early nineteenth century in Great Britain*, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, 1980, p.12.
- 20 Brent Elliott, *Victorian Gardens*, 1986, p.53.
- 21 Frank Clark, 'Nineteenth-Century Public Parks from 1830', *Garden History: The Journal Of the Garden History Society*, London, 1, 3, 1973.
- 22 *American landscape architecture: Designers and places*, The Preservation Press, Washington, 1989, p.200.

4.3 TREES AND GENERAL PLANTING

History

The earliest known reference to planting in Darling Gardens is in 1882 although prior to this the Council minutes contained an entry in May 1867: 'Dr Mueller writes that trees and shrubs asked, would be got and recommending that the land be prepared'. (1) Another early reference to Ferdinand von Mueller, Government Botanist and, at that date, still Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens was in a letter of early May 1869 in which the Council applied for trees and shrubs for nearby Mayor's Park. Mueller replied 'that plants required for Municipal Reserves could be obtained [from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens nursery] any morning at 9 o'clock'. (2)

By 1875 it appears that no planting had been undertaken at Darling Gardens although fencing had been undertaken and a portion of the land had been trenched, but this was done, according to an official report, 'for the purpose of laying night soil for the Borough Council who at one time used it as a depot for such purpose'. (3) In the late 1870s the land was still being grazed and a condition of the tender in September 1876, perhaps with future planting in mind, was 'that all loose stones be removed by the lessee'. (4) In July 1879 Cr Lipton moved 'that a border of say 12 ft. to 15 ft. wide be trenched around the Darling Gardens'. (5)

A major contract for planting was let in March 1882 with James Scott and Sons, nurserymen and florists of Royal Nurseries, Hawthorn. The contract was for the supply of: '468 Pittosporum, 80 trees for avenue [sic], 40 ornamental trees, 12 specimen trees large, 24 fast growing trees, 6,000 transplanted quicks'. (6) This last item referred to small plants of hawthorn for use as hedging. Instead of 80 avenue trees, 8 1/3 dozen (i.e. 100) trees were supplied and these were undoubtedly the elms which form the present semi-circular avenue at the west end of Darling Gardens; these are shown as young trees in a photograph of c.1886. This photograph also showed the outer reserves along Gold Street planted with trees and shrubs and judging from the c.1889 photograph, the inner side of the fencing (i.e. the side facing the planted portion of the reserve) was hedged, possibly with hawthorn. The outer side may have been planted with the pittosporums mentioned on the nursery order; one long time resident recalled this species on the south and west frontages of Darling Gardens. (7) The fenced reserves were initially a contentious local issue (see Section 4.7) but the council's intentions were to protect the young plantings. (8)

A decade passed before the next known reference to planting in Darling Gardens. In June 1891 the newly appointed Gardens Committee applied for '200 trees required to replant the reserve in question'. (9) During the financial year 1891-92 £5 was spent on 'Preparing ground for trees' and £30 12s 7d on 'Wages, planting trees, forming, etc'. (10) In July 1892 the Town Clerk requested the Lands Department to supply 'about 100 trees for planting in that reserve. I should be glad', he continued, 'if a few Elms and Oaks were included'. (11) At this time the rockery and pond in the south-eastern corner was constructed and the beds were planted with flowers and shrubs (see Section 4.5). 'The caretaker ... can claim he has made that erstwhile uninviting area bloom like a rose' praised the *Collingwood Mercury*. (12)

Some tree planting had obviously taken place during 1895 although in July 1896 Cr. Gahan commented that 'Many had died last year due to the lateness of the planting'. (13) Major tree planting took place in mid-1896 when the *Mercury* reported that the caretaker 'is now busy preparing for tree planting along the Hoddle Street frontage. When this work is complete and these trees begin to grow, the gardens will be shaded the whole length around, and will more than ever be a popular and health giving resort for families'. (14) It is likely that the present elm and oak avenue dates from this 1896 planting campaign. (15)

Development of the oval inner reserve was initiated in 1905 and the bandstand was constructed in 1906. Trees were planted in this area but the *Collingwood Observer* reported in July 1906 that 'already some of the trees planted in the Darling Gardens have been greatly damaged'. (16) Further tree planting in Darling Gardens was urged, through the letters column of the *Collingwood Observer*, by a local ratepayer. Writing in June 1907 Mr A. Cherry, concluded by

observing that 'the local children should be invited to attend this tree planting in order that they might be impressed as to the necessity as to protecting them'. (17)

Whether or not this spurred the Gardens Committee is not known but on Arbor Day in 1907 (7 August) a major tree planting ceremony took place in the gardens. Children processed, bands played, invited dignitaries spoke, local worthies gushed and upward of sixty trees were planted. 'The business was rather tedious and darkness drew on' commented the *Collingwood Observer*, yet the reporter acknowledged the importance of the day in the annals of local history. (18) Vandalism almost inevitably took a toll - 'no punishment would be too severe for the perpetrators of such wanton outrages' fumed an outraged neighbour - yet the tree planting generally prospered and today can be seen in the avenue leading north from the bandstand and in the trees leading to the north-east corner. (19)

Tree planting has continued sporadically in Darling Gardens since the major campaigns of 1881, 1891-92 and 1907, and the avenue planting of Hoddle Street (1896). Palms were planted by or during the inter-war period and some lawn specimens were planted or replaced. There is very little documentation currently available on the period 1907-c.1970 and gradual maturing of earlier plantings appears to have been the main change to the tree plantings.

An avenue was planted at the eastern end of the gardens c.1930-45 along a track which was possibly intended to provide access to the shed/toilet on Gold Street. Neither this nor the elm avenue at the west retain their associated paths. Long-time Gold Street resident Clarice Crane recalled *Pittosporum* on the south and west frontages of the site and this was doubtless a remnant from the plantings of 1882. (20) Aerial photographs indicate that the Hoddle Street frontage of the gardens was extensively planted by 1945 (plan 18). Former gardener Leo Morgan also recalled shrubs 'right around the fence line' during the 1950s. (21)

Replacement avenues were planted along the diagonal paths running south-west and north-west from the site of the bandstand although their date has not been ascertained. They were not shown on the 1974 aerial (plan 23) but were plotted on the 1987 existing conditions survey (plan 24).

There have been few Australian native trees planted in Darling Gardens. There are isolated specimens of *Eucalyptus botryoides*, *E. citriodora*, *E. maculata* and most notably a band of wattles on the Hoddle St embankment, planted in the 1970s to screen this ever-busier thoroughfare. (22)

In 1975, following removal of the temporary Collingwood High School buildings from the west end of the gardens, Father Jim Pilmer, the Priest in charge of St Andrews, Clifton Hill suggested to the Council that the newly vacated site should be covered with 'a fairly dense planting of native Australian shrubs and small trees', an action which in his opinion 'would complement the gardens and the general area'. He saw the native plant area as 'a unique environmental asset in the City of Collingwood and ... an opportunity for our neighbours from other countries to see some of the beautiful flowering shrubs and trees from Australia growing close to their homes'. (23) Councillors welcomed the suggestion but City Engineer M.H. Agnew doubted the wisdom of the scheme and sought guidance from Carrick Chambers, Professor of Botany at the University of Melbourne and at that date recognised as a leading local authority on historic gardens. Following his cool response the idea was dropped. (24)

Concern over the condition of existing trees has occupied council's attention since the late 1970s. John Aston, tree surgeon, was commissioned to survey the elm trees in mid-1978 and he recommended replacement of some trees and tree surgery to prolong the life of others. (25) The Gardens Committee considered these reports in July 1978 and adopted his recommendations that 15 trees be removed and tree surgery be undertaken to save four elms, work which was finalised by October 1978. (26) Ashton's involvement was marked by planting of a golden elm which he donated as a mark of his respect for the 'fine elms we have had the pleasure to maintain'. (27)

Major new tree planting was also undertaken in September 1985 when 45 elms and 2 silver birch were supplied at a cost of just over \$4,500. (28) Extensive proposals for replanting were made in 1987 by Land Research and Design in a strategy plan but these works were never implemented.

Current state

The following list (figure 3) shows the major tree plantings in Darling Gardens. There have been few trees planted in recent years, exceptions are several conifers south of the rotunda and replacement trees in avenues. Likewise few trees have been removed recently, although a large and significant Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex* - included on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees) was removed from its position north of the toilet block in c.1992. A mature palm (*Jubea chilensis*) at the South Terrace entrance which unaccountably died (1991) was also recently removed. Inadequate pruning, damage by inappropriate mowing techniques, lack of tree surgery and poor drainage have, over many years, contributed to a decline of the trees in Darling Gardens.

Analysis

The general development of trees at Darling Gardens is shown diagrammatically in Figure 4 (overleaf).

The avenues are the principal features of Darling Gardens and form one of several fine examples in Victoria of this form. Elms were commonly used for avenue plantings in Victoria during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The best known examples are Camperdown, Bacchus Marsh, Alexandra, Royal Parade, Victoria Parade and Birdwood Avenue. Among parks and gardens the best known examples are in Fawkner Park, Carlton Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Caulfield Park and Rosalind Park, Bendigo. (29) The avenues at Darling Gardens are thus fine examples of relatively few examples of this form in a Victorian public garden and is distinguished by its semi-circular configuration. Another example of this semi-circular form is found at Benalla Gardens, although this is far less extensive than the feature at Darling Gardens and incorporates both elms and planes. The use of elms is typical of English and European gardens and the transplantation of this use to Australia demonstrates an important influence. It is the elm avenues at Darling Gardens which provide much of the English/European character to the site.

It is likely that the western semi-circular avenue was replicated at the eastern end of Darling Gardens. Several pieces of evidence tend to confirm this. Firstly, at least 100 trees were requested in 1892 which would be sufficient for a second semi-circular avenue. The Woodhouse plan of 1885 indicated a symmetrical arrangement of paths (i.e. a semi-circular path at each end - west and east). Although there is no evidence of a properly formed semi-circular path at the eastern end, the placement of several trees on the 1930 plan (plan 16) now represented by several surviving trees all have a common radius from a centre line drawn east-west through the site. This is clearly shown on plan 26. This gives weight to the theory that a semi-circular avenue once existed at the eastern end (also shown feintly in the 1931 aerial photograph) which for reasons unknown did not prosper. Several trees ('six oaks and one elm') removed to make way for the Infant Welfare Centre in 1956-57 may have also belonged to this avenue.

The trees at Darling Gardens are characteristic of their date of planting (e.g. elms from the 1880s to early 1900s and palms from the inter-war period). There are no trees of any great rarity in the gardens but one large elm is included on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees for its outstanding size. There is no remnant indigenous vegetation present in Darling Gardens.

There is also a considerable age spread of trees in Darling Gardens and the maturity of the original plantings will be a considerable management issue in the coming years. There are several avenues in Darling Gardens of differing age and species; this should reduce the major impact of avenue replacement.

Many of the most prominent avenue and specimen trees are elms (*Ulmus* species) and problems associated with Dutch Elm Disease, Elm Leaf Beetle and Elm Bark Beetle are a management issue which should be acted upon promptly. A tree assessment study is urgently needed for trees in Darling Gardens.

DARLING GARDENS CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

PLANT LIST 1993

KEY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
1	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Raywood'	Claret ash
2	unidentified tree (removed)	
3	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
4	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Gum
5	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Californian fan palm
6	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
7	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
8	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
9	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak
10	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert ash
11	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
30	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
31	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted gum
32	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
33	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted gum
34	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
35	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
36	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Queensland brush box
37	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
38	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
39	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
40	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
41	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
42	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
43	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth bark apple gum
44	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
to	as above	
50	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
51	<i>Platanus orientalis</i> (removed)	Oriental plane
52	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
53	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
54	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
55	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
56	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
57	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
58	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
59	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
60	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
61	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
62	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
63	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
64	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
65	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
66	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak
67	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
68	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert ash
69	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert ash
70	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert ash

363	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
372	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
373	<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Prickly paperbark
374	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
375	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
376	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
377	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
379	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
380	<i>Fraxinus ? ornus</i>	Desert ash
381	<i>Fraxinus ? ornus</i>	Desert ash
382	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
383	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
384	<i>Fraxinus ? ornus</i>	Desert ash
385	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	Lombardy poplar
386	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	Lombardy poplar
387	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
394	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
395	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak
396	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
404	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
405	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor laurel
406	<i>Fraxinus ? ornus</i>	Desert ash
407	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
419	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
420	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
to	as above	
445	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
446	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak
447	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
448	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak
449	<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch elm
450	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak
452	<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak

NOTES

1. All elm trees are identified at a preliminary stage as the Dutch elm, *Ulmus X hollandica*, because in the period this study was undertaken the trees were without leaves and accurate identification between English and Dutch elms was not possible.

2. Other deciduous trees are identified to a genus and species level where this could be determined. Use of sp. or ? denotes those trees where the species has not been identified.

3. Shrubs were not accurately identified as the majority had only been recently planted.

4. Identifications made in 1987 of native and exotic trees along the road reservation on Hoddle Street have been adopted.

NORTH TERRACE

SOUTH TERRACE

SHED
BED

Play equip. ?

HOBBS STREET

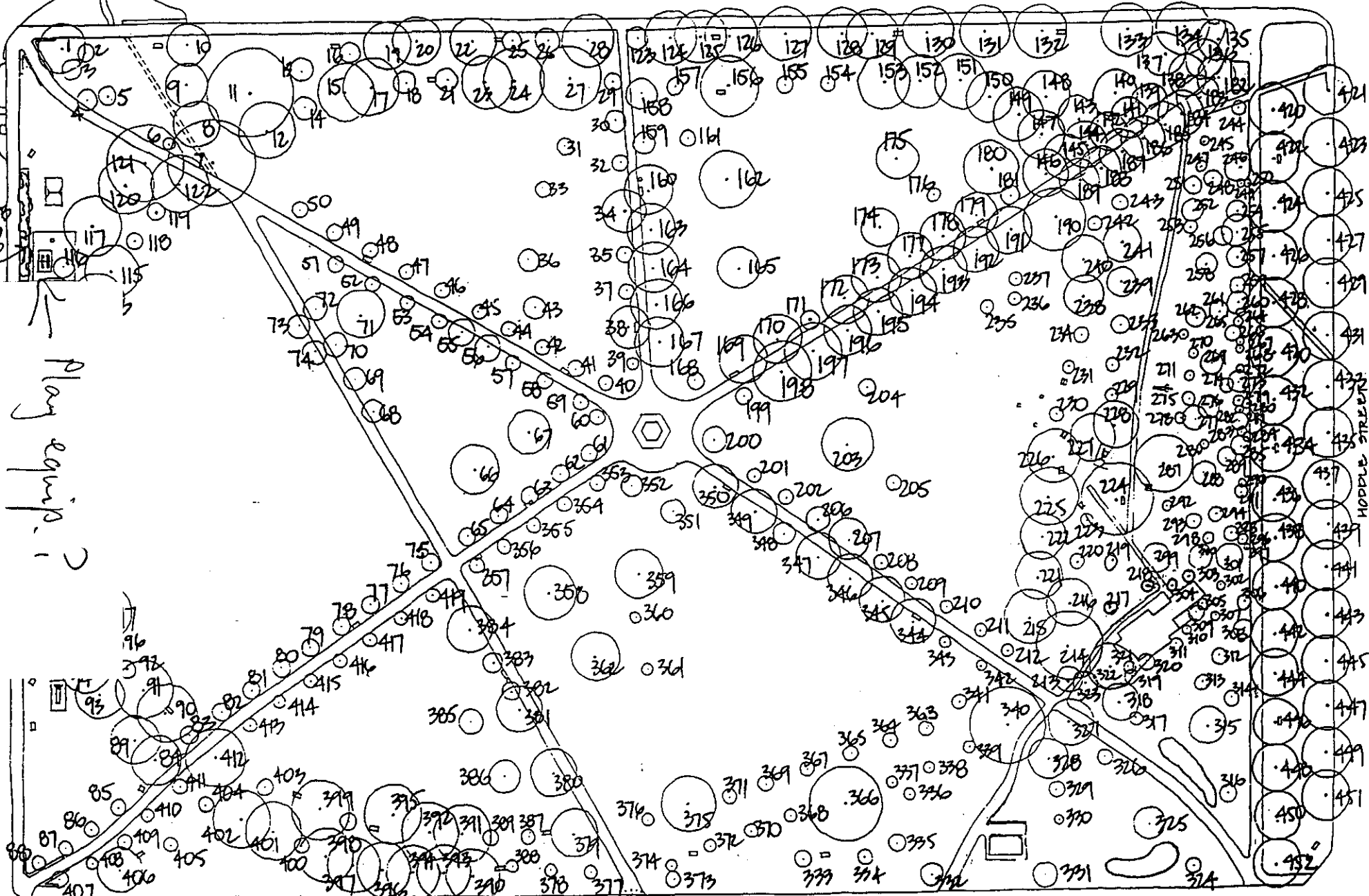
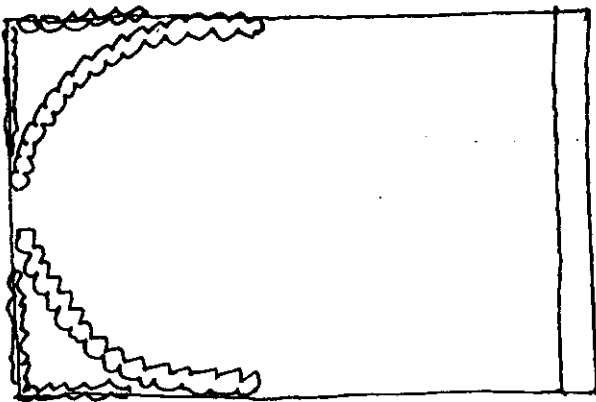
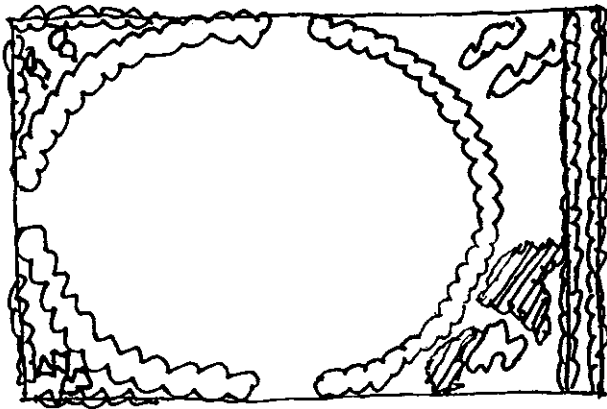


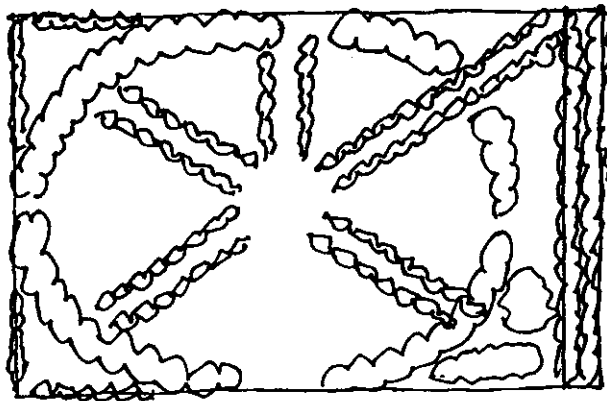
Figure 4
Darling Gardens: Trees and general planting



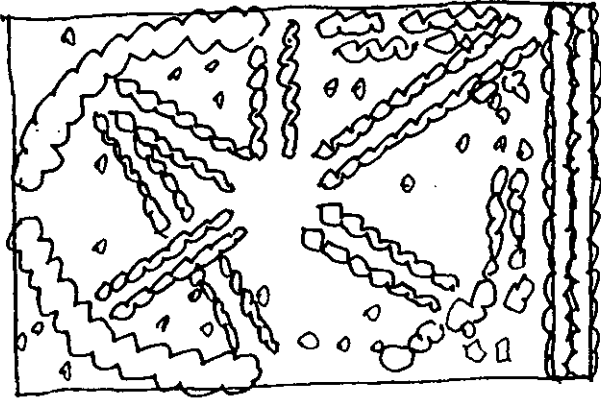
1882 semi-circular avenue of elms planted; some planting in western reserves



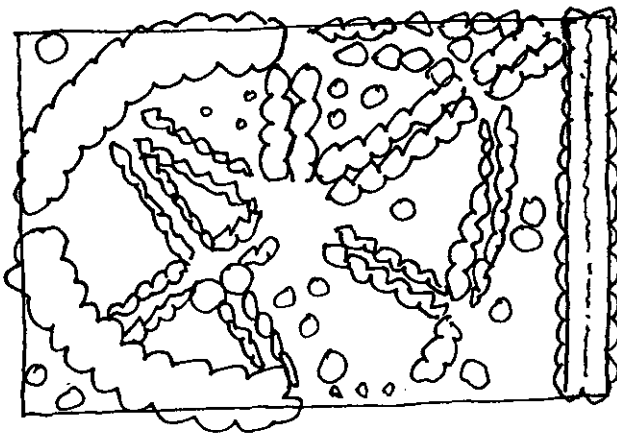
1892 presumed planting of eastern semi-circular avenue; presumed planting of eastern semi-circular avenue 1892 and avenue of trees in Hoddle Street reserve 1896



1907 planting of radiating avenues



by 1945 avenue running from north-east corner to South Terrace; specimen trees in lawn; planting of South Terrace and Hoddle Street frontage of site



c.1960 maturation of earlier plantings

Assessment of cultural significance

elms forming semi-circular avenue at west end of gardens: A
remnant trees forming eastern semi-circular avenue: A
elms and oaks forming avenue along Hoddle Street: A
elms forming avenue north from bandstand: A
elms forming avenue to north-east corner: A
other trees forming avenues within gardens: B
palm trees: A
recent plantings of eucalypts on lawns: N

References

- 1 Council Minutes, 8 May 1867, p.322, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 2 City of Collingwood, Council Minutes, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 3 Reserve file Rs 2906, report dated 19 August 1875, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 4 City of Collingwood, Council Minutes, 1875-1880, 20 September 1876, p.102, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 5 Council minutes, 9 July 1879, p.448, ordinary business, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 6 Contract No.310, 27 March 1882, researched by Tina Meyer; Rosemary Polya, *Nineteenth century plant nursery catalogues of south-east Australia: A bibliography*, La Trobe University Library, Bundoora, 1981, p.65.
- 7 Transcript of interview between Clarice Crane and Tina Meyer, 26 October 1988
- 8 Lands Department reserve file, Rs 2906, letter dated 1 June 1883, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 9 Garden Minutes, 20 June 1891, p.9. No.7, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 10 *ibid.*, September 1891, No.11, p.33, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 11 *ibid.*, 2 July 1892, No.11, p.30, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 12 *Collingwood Mercury*, 21 May 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 13 *Clifton Hill Tribune*, 30 July 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 14 *Collingwood Mercury*, 21 May 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 15 City of Collingwood, drawing 411.01, this is dated in pencil 6 May 1881 but this is presumably a later and inaccurate annotation.
- 16 *Collingwood Observer*, 2 July 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 17 *ibid.*, 17 June 1907, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 18 *ibid.*, 8 August 1907, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 19 *The Advertiser*, 30 June 1908, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 20 Transcript of interview between Clarice Crane and Tina Meyer, 26 October 1988
- 21 Transcript of interview between Leo Morgan and Tina Meyer, 1980s.
- 22 Former Councillor Marion Miller, pers.comm., 3 April 1993.
- 23 City of Collingwood, file 112/1, letter dated 11 June 1975.
- 24 *ibid.*, report of committee meetings, 30 June 1975 and 14 July 1975; Agnew to Chambers, University of Melbourne, 22 October 1975; Chambers to Agnew, 30 October 1975; notes of a telephone conversation between Chambers and Agnew, 24 November 1975; L D Cook, Town Clerk to the Reverend Father Pilmer, Anglican Inner City Ministry, St Andrews, Gold Street, Clifton Hill, 19 December 1975.
- 25 *ibid.*, R J Ashton Tree Services (Proprietor, John Ashton) to Malcolm Agnew, City Engineer
- 26 June 1978; John Ashton to Parks and Garden Committee, Collingwood City Council, 26 July 1978.
- 26 *ibid.*, Garden committee minutes 26 July 1978.
- 27 *ibid.*, Letter from R J Ashton to Malcolm Agnew, City Engineer and reply, 4 July 1979.
- 28 *ibid.*, works sheet for week ending 5 September 1985.
- 29 Roger Spencer, John Hawker & Peter Lumley, *Elms in Australia: Their identification and management*, Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra, 1991, p.3.

4.4 LAWNS

History

There was little in the way of lawn at Darling Gardens until the early 1880s. Until this date the site was grazed and the surface was covered, at least in part, with rocks. By 1875 a portion of the land had been trenched, but this was done for the purpose of laying night soil by the council, which at one time used Darling Gardens as a depot for such purpose. (1) In 1876, when tenders for the grazing lease were advertised, the specifications included a condition 'that all loose stones be removed by the lessee'. (2) By September 1878, when the land grant for Darling Gardens was issued, £40 had been expended 'in levelling and likewise improving' the site. (3)

Apart from removal of stones and trenching, the earliest known mention of sowing grass came in a report of September 1878. (4) By 1886, the date of the earliest known photograph of Darling Gardens, the inner reserve had a rough grass cover. Some years later, the *Clifton Hill Tribune* reported: 'a fine crop of hay is being taken off Darling Gardens reserve. If it had been cut earlier it would have been better, as school boys and cricketers mowed it with their hurrying feet for a fortnight before the sythe was used'. (5) Photographs of the early twentieth century show much finer grass, especially around the rockery in the south-east reserve and the 1881 plan of Huddle Street labelled the lawns in the road reservation 'Rye Grass'. (6) In 1899 the *Tribune* commented on the 'fine crop of grass ... [which] would make good meadow hay'. (7)

Following the decision in 1905 to develop the inner reserve at Darling Gardens as a park rather than as a de facto sporting reserve, the current balance of open lawn to shrub beds and trees was presumably established. Aerial photographs taken in 1931, 1945, 1960 and 1974 show little change in the open lawns (with the exception of the temporary Collingwood High School of the 1970s); all lawns have several specimen trees and a cycle of removal and replanting has kept an equilibrium in this respect.

Former gardener Leo Morgan recalled that during World War Two air raid trenches were dug in the lawns at Darling Gardens, a feature common to many gardens during this period. (8)

Details of early mowing are not known, apart from the 'sythe' reference of the 1899. In fact there is little information contained in council files about the lawns and their condition. A watering system was proposed in c.1950 and in 1970 the condition of the grass was strongly criticised by a local resident:

As a resident ... for nine years I strongly criticise the Council for their neglect of the Darling Gardens. In this time I regret to say that I have never seen water applied to the so-called grass in these gardens and with the influx of new arrivals in the area per media of flats the garden area is a disgrace, 95% of the park is dirt, not grass. This morning in a 15 minute walk through the gardens I found 42 empty beer and lemonade cans, 7 beer bottles and a large quantity of broken glass. Although this litter may be beyond your control, surely something could be done regarding the condition of the lawns. (9)

The City Engineer responded as follows:

As you may have observed works have been commenced to improve the extent and nature of the grass cover, to improve performance, particularly during the summer period. The work will be progressively carried out in stages. (10)

Despite claims of lack of watering, waterlogging of parts of the lawn has been a constant problem. This is due to soil type, compaction (particularly by machinery leading to poor aeration and the unlevel surface. A new watering system was installed in 1978 to replace an earlier system. (11)

The western lawn was temporarily occupied during 1972-75 by the Collingwood High School, and this area was reinstated as a largely open area following removal of the school buildings.

Current state

The lawns are currently maintained as closely mown grass with isolated specimen trees. Many sections are badly drained and use of heavy mowing equipment has an adverse impact on the surface by causing compaction. Tractor mowing is utilised due to the cost and inefficiency of hand mowing. Recent tree plantings on lawns have increased the difficulty and labour intensiveness of mowing.

Integrity

The current configuration of lawns at Darling Gardens only dates from c.1905-07, previously the whole of the inner reserve was grassed. The balance between lawns and specimen trees was also determined during this period and has been largely maintained since then. The major exceptions to the above are at the south-east corner, along South Terrace and along the slope to Hoddle Street, which were once intensively gardened and are now grassed.

Analysis

The use of broad lawns and a combination of specimen trees and more formal avenues or rows of trees is a characteristic associated with European squares and urban parks (such as Bedford Square and Grosvenor Square, London or Regent's Park, London for example) and this quality gives Darling Gardens much of its present character. Amongst Edwardian-era gardens Darling Gardens is unusual in the Victorian context for its lack of large scale shrubberies. This is largely due to the formal plan of paths that was dictated by the earlier layout of the perimeter.

Assessment of cultural significance

current extent of lawns (reflecting the c.1905-07 layout): A

present balance of lawn to specimen trees (reflecting the c.1905-07 layout): A

References

- 1 Lands Department reserve file, Rs 2906, 19 August 1875, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 2 Collingwood Council Minutes, 1875-1880, p.102, 20 September 1876, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 3 *ibid.*, p.185, 2 September 1878, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 4 *ibid.*, report of site inspection by A.Munro, 16 September 1878, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 5 *Clifton Hill Tribune*, 2 November 1899, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 6 City of Collingwood, plan 411.01.
- 7 *Clifton Hill Tribune*, 2 November 1899.
- 8 Transcript of interview between Leo Morgan and Tina Meyer, 1980s.
- 9 T C Compton, 10 North Terrace, Clifton Hill to Town Clerk, 16 March 1970, file 112/1; City of Collingwood plan 1339.01.
- 10 M H Agnew, City Engineer to Mr T C Compton, 22 April 1970, file 112/1.
- 11 City of Collingwood, plan 2230.01.

4.5 BEDS AND SHRUBBERIES

History

The earliest shrub plantings at Darling Gardens occurred in the early 1880s. In 1881 the outer reserves (or at least the two at the western end of the site) were fenced and in March 1882 a contract was let with nurseryman James Scott for the supply of plants (see Section 4.3). A year later Cr Lang called attention of the Public Works Committee to the necessity of preparing the north-west corner of Darling Gardens for planting'. (1) Although the plants supplied in 1882 were all trees (apart from Hawthorn quicks to form a hedge) it is likely that shrubs were supplied shortly after (perhaps at the time Cr Land wrote) as the 1886 photograph of Darling Gardens appears to show low shrub plantings in the corner of the gardens. This was certainly the intention of the council who wrote in June 1883 to the Minister of Lands 'the ornamental roads [are] temporarily enclosed pending the growth of Hedges and Shrubs'. (2)

The next major shrub planting took place in the early 1890s, at the time the rockery and pond were installed at the south-east corner of the site. Early photographs show this area well planted with beds bordered by low, neatly clipped hedges. In February 1896 the *Collingwood Mercury* commented:

Asters and zinnias seem to thrive well in Clifton Hill, and a walk through the Darling Gardens will convince any lover of flowers that with proper attention and care, flowers of all varieties can almost be brought to perfection. (3)

A few months later, the *Mercury* reported:

Entering the Gardens at the south-east corner, the visitor surveys a grotto of real beauty ... A few weeks ago the artistically arranged beds were gay with zinnias and chrysanthemums, but later blooms are now taking their place. (4)

The *Clifton Hill Tribune* was equally enthusiastic and commented 'the appearance of the cultivated portion of the gardens may well be admired'. (5) Apart from new beds around the bandstand (1906) shrub beds appear to have been confined to the outer reserves until after World War One. The planting of these is clearly shown in photos 11 and 12. The bandstand bed is shown in photographs 9 and 10; plants include cordlines, yuccas, agaves (green and variegated) and creeper on the rocks (perhaps *Mesembryanthemum* sp. or *Convolvulus mauritanicus*).

In November 1918 the council 'recommended that the extensions of the cultivated plots be first made on the south side of the gardens, in South Terrace instead of as originally intended on the eastern side'. (6) Shortly after, the head gardener reported that both the eastern and southern slopes might be cultivated without additional cost for labour, provided a water service was supplied on the eastern slope. This work was recommended, at an estimate of £10 10s. (7) Remaining fencing around the outer reserves was progressively removed as beds were extended. (8)

Planting of the eastern and southern slopes is shown on the 1930s plan together with circular garden plots at the North Terrace and Gold Street entrance (also shown on the 1921 plan) and two circular garden plots in the lawns. Entrance planting also appears at the north-west and at North Terrace. Also shown on the 1930s plan is the planting around the intersection of the paths in much the same configuration as in photo 10, the semi-circular garden beds framing the seating bays on all the paths (part of which is visible in photo 10). The basalt edging was retained at this date.

The 1945 aerial photograph shows shrub and flower beds along the eastern frontage and also around several palm trees on South Terrace (see plan 18). These beds were removed by 1960, possibly as part of the 1956 construction of the Infant Health Centre (see plan 22). Former gardener Leo Morgan recalled large beds of cannas in Darling Gardens in the 1950s, possibly some of those shown in c.1930 (see plan 16). (9) He also recalled the demolition of the rockery in the

mid-1950s and in 1978 this area was subject to the attention of the Darling Gardens Committee who recommended:

Garden beds be removed and replaced with natural groupings of North American conifers and birch. Mass plantings of bank to east side of Darling Gardens be carried out this planting season. (10)

In recent years this corner has been planted with annuals in beds edged with basalt pitchers.

Following demolition of the bandstand (c.1945-60) the central bed was planted, possibly with a specimen tree and low shrubs. The central bed was again altered in 1976 with the reconstruction of a bandstand. Initially low Australian native species were used but, these did not fare well and were replaced by the present dense hedge of *Pyracantha*. (11) Over recent decades the rock edging to the paths has been lowered to the level of the surrounding ground.

Recent bedding planting in or adjacent to the gardens has included a traffic diversion at the west end of North Terrace, an important approach to the gardens (probably late 1980s or early 1990s), at the south-east corner (1990-91), cottage garden on Gold Street (1992) and traffic narrowings at Gold Street and South Terrace (1992).

Current state

There are currently four main garden beds in Darling Gardens. These are the annual bed in the south-east corner; a recent 'cottage garden' bed, edged with sleepers, located on Gold Street; the bed around the bandstand currently planted with *pyracantha*; and some shrub plantings around the Infant and Maternal Health Centre.

Analysis

From the early 1890s until c.1956, shrub beds and flower beds imparted considerable character to Darling Gardens. The main periods of development of these beds were as follows.

1890s: rockery and extensive beds in the south-east corner (see photographs 5 to 8)

1905-07: basalt edged beds around the bandstand and at the corners of the intersecting paths in this vicinity (see photographs 9 and 10)

1918-c.1930: circular beds on some lawns, beds along Hoddle Street and South Terrace, beds on North Terrace (centrally placed and at the north-west corner). These beds were possibly influenced by the work of John Guilfoyle in Melbourne City Council's main gardens via former employee Walter Patrick who was appointed Curator of Collingwood's parks and gardens at this time

c.1956: loss of rockery and most beds, creation of several small beds at south-east corner (precursors to the present, more recent annual beds)

Only the bandstand bed survives in anything like its original form, although the planting is not of a character in keeping with its original design intent. Formerly this bed, like its neighbours housed small plants interspersed with bold foliage plants such as *Cordylines* and *Agaves*. The replanting of the beds in the vicinity of the bandstand may be rendered difficult by the increased shade and water competition from surrounding trees.

The rockery at the south-east corner was demolished as recently as the mid 1950s and it is possible that much of its rockwork survives under fill.

Assessment of cultural significance

Form of bandstand bed: A
Current planting of bandstand bed: I
Loss of original planting character from bandstand bed: I
Retention of basalt edging for paths and beds: A
Loss of planting in beds in the vicinity of bandstand: I
Current annual beds at south-east corner: I
Loss of rockery, pond and associated garden beds and planting: I
Loss of beds on lawns and at entrances: I
Shrub planting around Infant and Maternal Health Centre: N
Cottage garden bed on Gold Street: I

References

- 1 Council Minutes, 7 May 1884, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 2 Lands Department reserve file, Rs 2609, 1 June 1883, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 3 *Collingwood Mercury*, 20 February 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 4 *ibid.*, 21 May 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 5 *Clifton Hill Tribune*, 23 January 1903, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 6 Council Minutes, 4 November 1918, p.75, clause 3, Public Works Committee, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 7 *ibid.*, 18 November 1918, p.80, clause 7, Public Works Committee, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 8 Letter Book 1917-1919, 12 December 1918, p.716, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 9 Transcript between Leo Morgan and Tina Meyer, 1980s.
- 10 Garden Committee Minutes 26 July 1978 in file 112/1.
- 11 City of Collingwood file 112/1.

4.6 USE OF WATER

History

The earliest known reference to a reticulated supply of water for Darling Gardens came in 1869 when council applied to be connected to the Yan Yean supply. In his reply, Charles Le Cren indicated that the application 'would be considered immediately' although the outcome is not known. (1) A year earlier Le Cren had written to council regarding the laying of a water main in the municipality, promising 'to make provision of supply to Mayor's Park'.

The first definite reference to a water reticulation system in Darling Gardens came as late as May 1892 when the council applied for permission to lay a half inch water pipe 'for the purpose of supplying these gardens with water'. This wording appears to indicate that hitherto the gardens had not had a reticulated supply. (2) Prior to this the only mention of water had been complaints in 1883 from North Terrace residents about drainage. A tender 'for supplying and fixing 300ft. of gal. iron piping from the main (exclusive of trenching)' was accepted; it was perhaps this secure water supply that emboldened the Gardens Committee to proceed with the creation of the rockery and pond in the south-east corner of the gardens. (3) Accounts for the financial year 1892-93 show an expense of £51 16s 4d for 'Laying on water'. £8 6s 10d was also expended on 'Sand, water rates and repairs. (4) By 1896 the pool was a major feature of the gardens and the Collingwood Mercury reporter expressed surprise 'to find silver and gold fish disporting in pools which it would almost be thought Nature had provided'. (5)

Watering was a major task for the gardener and in December 1892, complaining about council's administrative tardiness, the Gardens Committee noted that 'the reserve now requests the constant attention of one man whose time will be fully occupied in watering and other work'. (6) By the following financial year this figure had doubled, perhaps indicating a far greater use of water. (7) Unrestricted use of water was sometimes curtailed in dry seasons, as in summer 1908, when the secretary of Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works drew attention to the scarcity of water in the Yan Yean Reservoir. The urgency of conserving water was noted and the unfortunately named Cr Rain informed his colleagues that already instructions had been given that less water was to be used at Darling Gardens. (8)

In January 1903 the *Clifton Hill Tribune* noted that the council 'has decided to spend £5 (the Government will grant £ for £) on new seats and extension of the water service, so that Mr Keirce will have better facilities for watering the plants. (9) The nature of this extension is not known but in January 1909 the council surveyor reported that 'the extension of reticulation of water service in the Darling Gardens is completed'. (10)

The earliest known plan to show water reticulation only dates from c.1950 and it is not known if this was proposed or existing. (11) At this date the pond was still extant although this feature was filled during the 1950s. In 1978 the council installed an automatic watering system throughout Darling Gardens to replace an existing system. This new system was designed and installed by Agrinco Pty Ltd. (12)

Current state

Water is supplied by Melbourne Water although the system of payment is not known. The current fully automatic watering system was installed in the 1970s and operates to the satisfaction of Gardens staff. Apart from the drinking fountains and toilet facilities there are no other features in the gardens which use water. Darling Gardens has poor drainage and this is causing problems with tree health. A thorough investigation of soils, drainage and aeration is needed as part of a tree assessment study.

Analysis

A continued supply of good quality water is critical for the survival of Darling Gardens.

The major water feature in Darling Gardens was the pond, located within the rockery at the south-east corner of the gardens. The pond survived from the early 1890s to the mid 1950s and its loss has deprived the site of a major feature.

Assessment of cultural significance

adequate supply of water: A

current reticulation system: N

provision of drinking fountains: B

current drinking fountains: N

loss of pond (part of rockery) as a major water feature: I.

References

- 1 Council Minutes, 27 January 1869, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 2 Garden Minutes, No.11, p.29, 2 May 1892, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 3 *ibid.*, p.28, 2 May 1892, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 4 *ibid.*, September 1893, p.48, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 5 *Collingwood Mercury*, 21 May 1896, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 6 Garden Minutes, No.11, p.38, 5 December 1892, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 7 *ibid.*, September 1894, p.57, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 8 *Collingwood Observer*, 13 February 1908, Municipal Correspondence, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 9 *Clifton Hill Tribune*, 23 January 1903, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 10 *Collingwood Observer*, 11 January 1909, researched by Tina Meyer.
- 11 City of Collingwood, plan 1339.01.
- 12 Contract 863, July 1978, copy of contract and plan in file 112/1.

4.7 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Extant works (listed chronologically by date of erection or earliest reference)

Electricity sub-station

History

This building was erected for the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, whose power station was located adjacent to the Yarra River in Richmond. The small building, hatched to indicate masonry construction, was shown on the 1903 MMBW plan (but not that of 1897 - see plans 11 and 12) at the north-east corner of Darling Gardens. The MES Company was taken over by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in 1930 but from 1924 the Company had supplied electricity on behalf of the Commission. The SEC first undertook work on the building in 1928 when it was subject to a routine maintenance overhaul. The building was enlarged in 1933 at a cost of £784 and presumably took on its present configuration. (1)

Current state

This structure has a rectangular plan and is constructed on red brick with pebble dash render. The step is of basalt and the vents are of terra cotta. The roof, clad in corrugated iron, is framed with metal angle sections and has a small cupola vent. The building was renovated in 1992 and is still used by the State Electricity Commission.

Analysis

This building was constructed in two sections, with the southern portion of the building being the original structure shown on the 1901 MMBW plan. The building was extended to its current footprint in 1933. It is similar to other substations, such as the structure nearby in Alexandra Parade. The design, with its picturesque roof form, is similar to contemporary park and garden buildings. The building is also a reminder of the chaotic period in the late nineteenth century when several private or council-owned electricity companies supplied Victoria's electric power needs.

Lighting

History

The earliest known reference to lighting in Darling Gardens is contained in the council minutes of August 1912 when illumination 'all night and every night' was mentioned. It is quite possible that there was gas lighting at an earlier date and there was apparently one lamp in the centre of Darling Gardens, possibly the one shown in early photographs of the bandstand. (2) A 100 watt lamp was placed in the south east corner of Darling Gardens in December 1921 and lights were installed in streets around the gardens in February the following year. 200 watt lamps were also installed in the centre of the gardens in the bandstand at this date (replaced by a 400 watt mercury lamp in 1938) Two additional 200 watt lamps were installed in the south west corner of the gardens in the 1930s. (3) Further lamps were added according to need, including illumination of such facilities as toilets, barbecues and the infant welfare centre. (4) Lighting was upgraded in the 1970s and 1980s. (5)

Current state

There is a variety of lights and light poles in gardens. With the growth of trees, many of the lights are now obscured and the resultant lack of light is perceived as a problem by some garden users.

Analysis

It is difficult to date the lighting in Darling Gardens. Much is modern, but some poles with long arms appear to be of some antiquity.

Cannon

History

This cannon was placed in Darling Gardens at a date unknown. It was manufactured in Germany by the celebrated German munitions manufacturer Krupp and has the marking 'Fried. Krupp, 1915 (No.548)'. The cannon was shown in its present position on a plan of c.1930. A second cannon existed in Darling Gardens for a time but its present whereabouts is unknown. (6)

Current state

Metal cannon sits on a concrete plinth.

Analysis

One of many cannons in Victoria's public parks and gardens. It relates to World War One, whereas some earlier pieces relate to Boer War or even (as in the case of the ordnance in front of Victoria Barracks) to the Crimean War. Very few cannons in public gardens relate to World War Two, as it is much more common for cannon of this date to be located in front of RSL Halls. The popularity of ordnance in gardens had presumably waned by the mid-twentieth century.

Pergola

History

Remnants of two pergolas survive at the north-west and south-west entrances to Darling Gardens. The original undated drawings, signed by City Engineer, for these two pergolas are held in the Council collection along with an unexecuted proposal of a more ambitious design incorporating masonry arches. The pergolas were not shown on the c.1930 plan of Darling Gardens (see plan 16). It is possible that the structures were erected during the 1940s. The stone is locally reputed to have come from a demolished residence at 26 North Terrace. (7)

A report dated January 1979 concerning these pergolas (referred to as 'stone arches') was prepared by S.W. Bowbrick, Assistant Building Surveyor and at a Gardens Committee meeting in February that year it was resolved 'that the stone arches be demolished but that the walls along each side be retained as seats at the entrances'. (8)

Current state

The remnant base walls of these pergolas survive at the north-west and south-west corners. The bases are constructed of large roughly-shaped porous basalt blocks with built-in seating. The upper structure, which presumably once supported climbing plants, has now been demolished.

Analysis

These structures are some of the few major works carried out in Darling Gardens in post-1906 period.

Clifton Hill Maternal and Child Health Centre

History

Two drawings of an infant welfare centre to be sited in Darling Gardens were prepared by City Engineer W.E. Thompson in January 1927. (9) Alternative sites were proposed: one north of the toilets and one on the present site. A second design was prepared in December 1950 by the City Engineer but again no further action was taken. (10) The present building was erected during 1957 and extended in 1966 (see Section 2.5). (11)

Current state

This building is constructed of brick with a flat roof. Green paint now disguises an architecturally undistinguished building.

Analysis

This is one of scores of infant welfare centres located across Victoria. There are several examples in Collingwood of this building type and the one located in Gahan's Reserve is of an earlier date, of somewhat greater architectural significance and is an integral feature of the layout of the park. By contrast the building in Darling Gardens does not form an integral part of the design of the site, and has been used for purposes not related to Darling Gardens; the formalisation of this use was recently successfully challenged in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Drinking fountains

History

In 1899 Cr.Dyer paid a visit to the Darling Gardens and saw a number of improvements. One was that a water tap 'that was at one time available to the public [but] was now fenced in'. (12) The date of this facility is not known. The next known reference to a fountain was a note dated 2 March 1970 indicating that one fountain existed and one was to be added. (13) In a report to Council on 17 May 1971 the drinking fountain at the 'western end of the Darling Gardens' was mentioned. (14)

Current state

There are currently two drinking fountains in Darling Gardens and they are located north-west of the Infant Welfare Centre and at the south-east corner of the site. The former is constructed of basalt with a drinking tap on the top and a bib tap on the side whilst the latter is cast iron with a stainless steel drinking bowl.

Analysis

Drinking fountains important part of public parks and gardens, often inspired by the temperance movement. The current drinking fountains in Darling Gardens retain a continuity of function but are otherwise undistinguished.

Barbecues

History

Plans showing siting of barbecues were tabled before Collingwood Council on 30 September 1974 and in December 1975 M H Agnew, City Engineer wrote to Mr B Way, Public Lighting Superintendent, State Electricity Commission: 'Dear Sir, I would refer to our letter of 16th October

1975 referring to lighting and underground wiring in conjunction with the new barbecue installation adjacent to the Baby Health Centre'. (15)

Current state

Basalt structure with orange tiles which houses two gas fired barbecues. Surrounded by three picnic seats/tables and some children's playground equipment.

Analysis

The present barbecues are presumed to date from 1975. They are not traditionally part of Darling Gardens but fires were not unknown in the gardens (compare with bonfires in the 1890s).

Reconstructed bandstand

History

This building was constructed in 1976 as a reconstruction of the former bandstand (q.v.) and was based on photographic evidence. The architects for the reconstructed structure were Daryl Jackson Evan Walker Architects Pty Ltd, Brunswick Place, Fitzroy and the engineer was David Beauchamp. (16) File notes in July 1984 indicate consistent vandalism of rotunda, especially to the balustrade. (17)

Current state

As built except for balustrade, replaced in metal due to constant vandalism, and seating installed in 1992. Regretably the balustrade pattern does not match original design as it has only one set of diagonal bracing rather than the original two. The reconstructed bandstand retains the stone surround from the original structure.

Analysis

Reconstruction of bandstand has provided focus for garden and has very successfully revealed anew the cultural significance of the site as a whole (a prerequisite for reconstruction under the Burra Charter). See comments on original bandstand (q.v., in following sub-section) regarding orientation.

Toilet block

History

At a meeting in June 1978 the Collingwood Council received notification of approval to expend \$25,000 of special account funds on a new toilet block. The work was to proceed as soon as staff time permits. (18)

Current state

Constructed of reddish-brown brick with colourbond corrugated profile roof. The building is terrace at the rear with a low retaining wall constructed of basalt pitchers.

Analysis

This facility is located close to the site of the earlier toilet/shed (q.v.). A necessary feature for such a garden and although the building form and colour are not intrusive, the buildings is far larger than necessary.

Playground equipment

History

Early drawings of playground equipment are located in the Lands Department reserve file (c.1925) and various play items are shown on plans of c.1930 and c.1950 (see plans 16 and 19). In June 1983 a report to the council's Public Works Committee stated: 'The playground equipment installed at Darling Gardens two to three years ago has been well utilised (despite considerable vandalism). Due to the proximity of Hoddle Street, a fenced in enclosure with some toddler's play equipment, would probably be well utilised'. (19)

Current state

There is a variety of playground equipment scattered throughout Darling Gardens. The largest concentrations of equipment are along the Gold Street frontage and adjacent to the barbecues.

Analysis

Playground equipment has existed in Darling Gardens since 1920s (see plan 16). At present there appears to be a trend towards the grouping of equipment, which combined with large soft fall areas is producing an effect at odds with the earlier, relatively scattered nature of the items. *The impact of the pine log edging worsens the effect of the play equipment grouping and may lead to the temptation to enlarge these areas.*

Bus Shelter

History

This structure, located at the north-east corner of the site, was erected c.1988-89 and replaced an all-metal structure. (20)

Current state

Precast concrete panels impregnated with pebbles and supported by a metal frame. Metal deck roof with square fascia.

Analysis

One of countless such shelters around the metropolitan area. Located within the Darling Gardens boundary. If replaced, the shelter could easily be of a more sympathetic design.

Seating

History

During the nineteenth century, gates to the inner reserve of Darling Gardens were often kept locked and in December 1891, Cr. Wilkins suggested that the gates to the enclosure be opened to allow the children to go in during the daytime. 'Perhaps a few seats might be put there' he added. (21) This was the earliest known reference to seating being proposed and by February 1905 Cr. Wilkins could report that 'there should be more seating accommodation' indicating the presence of at least some seats. (22) That month the council let a contract for the painting of seven seats along the Hoddle Street frontage to Darling Gardens 'with one coat of white paint' and for a further 43 seats in March the following year. (23) The typical City of Collingwood timber seats survived in the Hoddle Street reservation until at least c.1955 (see photo 15).

Current state

There is a variety of seating in Darling Gardens. Most seats are of a bench type and the most common has a precast concrete frame with heavy timber slats. Some newer types are reproductions of Victorian era seats with cast iron frames and timber slats.

Analysis

Little is known about early seating in Darling Gardens but it is likely that at least some (if not all) seats were the standard City of Collingwood seat, constructed of timber, shown in many early photographs (see photo 15).

Rubbish bins

Current state

There are several rubbish bins in Darling Gardens and most have a removable metal bin with timber or metal slat holder set on a stub column.

Analysis

Use of rubbish bins should be carefully monitored to strike a balance between too few and too many bins. In some Melbourne parks, a decrease in the number of bins has not produced a commensurate increase in litter as more people take rubbish away with them.

Signs

Current state

There are many different signs in Darling Gardens for a variety of cautionary and advisory purposes. Most are metal plates fixed to metal poles.

Analysis

None of the existing signs in Darling Gardens has any cultural significance. Due to siting or design several are considered intrusive. The painted signs on the paths are a sympathetic alternative to signs on posts, but there is no apparent link between provision of a sign and adherence to its message in Darling Gardens if unleashed dogs and owners are any guide. The least possible number of signs should remain in the site.

Demolished works (listed chronologically by date of erection or earliest reference)

Fencing

History

The earliest known reference to fencing came in August 1868 in a petition from residents of the municipality 'that gateways be formed at the north-east end of the Darling Gardens. (24) £30 was allocated by the Lands Department to council for public parks and gardens in January the following year and in March the council applied for a sum out of the vote for fencing public grounds in aid of fencing the Darling Gardens. (25) The result of this application is not known nor is the use to which the £30 was put.

Following permanent reservation of the site in February 1874 definite proposals for fencing were implemented. In September that year the council resolved that 'a three rail fence be erected in the Darling Gardens reserve in a position to be fixed by the public works committee'. (26) A letter received in the following month from a George Thomson called attention to the state of the fence, perhaps indicating poor condition of earlier (c.1868-69?) fencing. (27) In October 1874 the council also resolved that four entrances for foot passengers be erected and the fence be repaired. (28) These repairs were carried out by James Murray for the sum of £4 and he also constructed four entrances and posts and rails. (29)

Supporting the theory that fencing was already in place in 1874 were reports of October 1874 ('The gardens are fenced with a three rail fence') and August 1875 ('Since 1863 ... the only improvement effected on the land is the fencing around the oval portion, at a cost of about £43'), both contained in the Lands Department file on the site. (30)

In May 1877 the council resolved 'that the fence at Darling Gardens be moved so as to correspond to the new line of the channel'. (31) In September of the following year the Town Clerk wrote to the Department of Lands and Survey advising that £110 8s 8d had been expended by Collingwood Council in contracts for fencing. (32) Later that month a Lands Department inspector visited the site and reported: I have inspected the place and report that the following improvements have been made. 42 chains of post and rail fencing, ... removing stones, digging, levelling, sowing grass, etc. Total value about £140'. (33) 42 chains of fencing is approximately equal to the circumference of the oval inner reserve.

In April 1880 the council entered into a contract with James Payne for painting of the fence in Darling Gardens (£41). The time for completion was 1883, perhaps anticipating erection of new fencing. (34) An early plan of Hoddle Street shows a fence along the eastern boundary of the site (see plan 8).

New fencing was erected by Robert Collings Brown in a contract let in June 1881. This included 'posts and rails, pickets, 2 picket gates, 3 large gates' for a sum of £555 13s 4d. (35) It is possible both the fencing and painting contracts were negotiated at the same time but that signing of the fencing contract was delayed.

This fencing enclosed the triangular reserves and ornamental roads at the western corners of the gardens, much to the chagrin of the residents of North Terrace and Gold Street who petitioned the Lands Department on the subject. (36) The council claimed that the fencing had enclosed the ornamental roads (shown on the reservation of 1863) on a temporary basis pending the growth of hedges and shrubs. (37) The fencing is shown on a plan by C. Woodhouse of 1885 (see plan 9).

A new management committee controlled Darling Gardens from 1891 and an early act was to consider the erection of the fence to enclose the eastern portion of the gardens. (38) Advice was sought from the council with regard to the Hoddle Street reserve 'so provision can be made in the specification for fencing' although no definite action was taken by the council on the matter of reducing the width of the road. (39) The City Surveyor was authorised to assist the committee 'by supervising the erection of the balance of the fencing around the gardens'. (40)

Work on the contract for completing the fencing was well underway by April 1891 and completed by August that year. (41) The sum expended in the year ending 30 September 1891 on erection of the 'outer fencing' was £305 1s 10d and on the 'inner fencing', £125 15s 6d. (42) In the following financial year £11 12s 6d was expended on 'Altering and repairing gates'. (43) The fencing at this date is shown on the MMBW detail plan of 1897 (see plan 11).

Access to the fenced reserve caused some problems. In December 1891 Cr Wilkins suggested to the committee that the gates to the enclosure be opened to allow the children to go in during the daytime and in May 1901 a correspondent suggested that the entrances to Darling Gardens 'would be improved by taking away the gates and erecting posts. The entrance at the south-west corner is especially abominable.' (44)

By 1905 proposals to remove the inner fencing and develop the inner reserve were initiated. (45) When, in February 1908, the Tramways Board made an offer to purchase old pickets it was explained by the council 'that in all probability the fence at the Darling Gardens fronting Hoddle Street would shortly be removed'. (46) This work was reported in the local press in March 1908. (47)

In November 1911 it was recommended by the head gardener that barbed wire be placed around certain of the reserves although this may refer to other reserves in Collingwood and not the Darling Gardens. (48)

Various proposals to remove further sections of fencing were considered by the council and its committees during the period 1913-18. In February 1913 Cr. Coulson said the Darling Gardens committee had 'given consideration to the question of removing the fence around the reserve. The committee was however so short of funds that it was not positioned to do anything in that direction at present'. Cr. Coulson referred to the fine condition in which the gardens were now in and recommended the councillors pay a visit of inspection. (49) The fencing was removed incrementally 'as the ornamental plots are being extended', presumably a reference to the plots in the eastern and southern portion of the gardens. (50)

In November 1919 some posts were painted at a cost of £11 10s and it was resolved that tenders be called 'for purchase and removal of the balance of the fencing'. (51)

Fencing was indicated in the c.1930 plan of Darling Gardens enclosing garden beds along South Terrace and Hoddle Street, alignments still indicated in the c.1950 plan but not shown in c.1957 (see plans 16, 19 and 21).

Analysis

Fencing was first erected in Darling Gardens in the late 1860s (see Section 2.1). Its use was initially intended to allow grazing on the inner oval reserve, and later to protect plants during their growth. It was always the intention to remove the fencing and this was done progressively during the early years of this century. There is currently no fencing in Darling Gardens, the last remnants having been removed probably during the 1950s. (52)

Rockery

History

In the year ending 30 September 1892 the Collingwood City Council expended several sums of money on a 'Rockery' as follows:

To Wages and stone for Rockery £173
To Supervising and erecting Rockery £82 12s 6d (53)

£67 6s 8d was also expended 'To Timber, cement and sand' perhaps in connection with construction of this rockery (but equally likely this latter sum may have included materials for the new shed - q.v.). (54)

During the following financial year the Council expended a further £27 16s 6d 'To Supervising and erecting Rockery'. (55) It is presumed that this was the structure located in the south-east corner of Darling Gardens, shown in several early photographs and included on the 1897 and 1903 MMBW plans (see plans 11 and 13). (56) The photographs show a pond as an integral part of the rockery and the 1896-97 attribution is strengthened by the expenditure of £51 16s 4d 'To Laying on water' expended in the year to 30 September 1893. (57)

The *Collingwood Mercury* spoke approvingly of the south-east corner in May 1896:

The caretaker of the Darling Gardens Clifton Hill can claim he has made that erstwhile uninviting area bloom like a rose. Entering the Gardens ... the visitor surveys a grotto of real beauty, and he is surprised to find silver and gold fish disporting in pools which it would almost be thought Nature had provided. (58)

Photographs taken in the following decade show a network of paths in this area and the rockery planted with many bold foliaged plants (see discussion in sections 4.2 and 4.5).

A local resident also recalled a waterfall in the rockery:

I can remember the lovely falls at the Darling Gardens. It started from the top of the hill and had half a dozen drops down. There were goldfish in there and flowers all around ... There was a fish pond down at the bottom with beautiful coloured fish in it. (59)

The rockery was destroyed in the mid-1950s. (60)

Analysis

The timing of the construction of this rockery sits oddly with the 1890s depression but it is probably that money was set aside on council estimates prior to the major bank crashes of late 1891. The rockery was a significant expenditure for the council and points to Darling Gardens being the premier horticultural feature of the municipality.

There are now very few extant rockeries of the kind once found in Darling Gardens. Similar grotesque rockeries are found at the following locations:

- Melbourne General Cemetery (near Elvis Presley memorial) by 1896 (extant) (61)
- Royal Botanic Gardens, adjacent to B Gate, 1890s? (extant) (62)
- Alexandra Avenue, opened 1901 (extant) (63)
- Williamstown Botanic Gardens, as part of Lake, 1904 (extant) (64)
- Spring Road Gardens, Malvern, date unknown (extant)

The rockery and associated pond at Darling Gardens survived from the early 1890s until the mid 1950s and their loss has deprived the site of a major feature.

Shed

History

In the year ending 30 September 1892 the Collingwood City Council expended £16 5s 0d 'To Forming footpath and erection of shed' and also £67 6s 8d 'To Timber, cement and sand' perhaps in connection with construction of this shed (but equally likely this latter sum may have included materials for the new rockery - q.v.). (65) The only shed shown on the 1897 MMBW plan (see

plan 11) is a small rectangular timber structure on the Hoddle frontage, near the south-east entrance, and this was presumably the one erected in 1891-92. The shed was not shown on the c.1930 plan (see plan 16) indicating its removal by that date (if not earlier).

Analysis

This shed did not have a long life but indicates that small buildings were erected during the life of the Gardens to accommodate gardeners' tools, especially in conjunction with major new garden projects (such as the rockery/pond in this case).

Urinal

History

A small building labelled 'urinal' was shown, at the east end of the inner reserve, on the 1903 MMBW plan (but not that of 1897 - see plans 11 and 12). It may have been erected following a Works Committee recommendation in January 1900 'that a urinal be erected on east side of the Darling Gardens'. Subsequent correspondence suggests that this recommendation related to the larger toilet block on South Terrace but this urinal may have been erected at the same time. (66) The urinal was demolished in 1908 when the larger toilet block was sewerred. (67)

Analysis

This function was taken over by the main toilet block as early as 1908.

Toilet/Shed

History

In January 1900 the Works Committee recommended 'that a urinal be erected on east side of the Darling Gardens'. (68) A contract was let in March 1900 for 'Construction of urinal in Darling Gardens' with Evans and Barnett, Harmsworth Street, Collingwood for £35 7s 6d. The works required in the contract consisted of:

the erection of a urinal, picket fencing enclosure etc., as shown on the plan. Construct picket fencing enclosure from urinal to outer fencing, similar to old fencing abutting gardeners shed. (69)

This latter reference to fencing and the appearance of the toilet/shed on the 1901 MMBW plan (but not that of 1897 - see plans 11 and 12) appears to indicate that this building was the one on South Terrace.

The combined shed and toilet was pictured in several views early this century and show it as a quite elegant little structure with an ogee profile roof and notched weatherboards on the walls.

The toilet was sewerred in 1908 and at this date the urinal (q.v.) was demolished. (70)

In May 1914 the council considered a petition from residents from South Terrace with regard to shed in Darling Gardens. Cr Trevena referred to the nuisance caused to residents in its vicinity and was of the opinion that the urinal should be removed to another position as suggested in the petition. After discussion it was eventually agreed that the matter should be referred to the Public Works committee and members of the Loch Ward were to confer on the subject. The Town Clerk was directed to call the attention of the sergeant at Clifton Hill to the complaint and ask that action be taken. (71) The ensuing letter to the police spoke of the locality as 'a rendezvous for

unruly lads, especially on Sundays, and is used by an undesirable class who seem to have no sense of shame or decency'. (72) The solution adopted by council was twofold. Enhanced lighting was provided by installation of a lamp at the south-east corner of the gardens while shrubs and climbing plants were to be planted to screen the tool house and urinal. (73)

In 1916 painting and repairs to the 'shed containing public conveniences and gardeners tool room' were undertaken and again in 1919 'painting of urinals' was recommended by the Public Works Committee. (74) The structure was shown on plans of c.1950 and c.1957 but appears to have been demolished by the 1960 aerial photograph (see plans 19, 21 and 22).

Analysis

This site of this building (or close to it) was used to erect the current toilet block. The current toilet is far larger than the footprint and building envelope of this shed.

Original Bandstand

History

Darling Gardens has had a tradition of bands performing free concerts and even prior to the erection of the bandstand a small temporary platform was used. For instance, in April 1898 the Collingwood Imperial Brass Band 'gave enjoyable selections' opposite the Mayor's house (in North Terrace) and at a Children's Carnival in May 1901: 'Bands played and fun prevailed'. A raised platform at the northern end was used for a very good programme' commented the *Clifton Hill Tribune*. (75)

In 1905 a decision was taken to landscape the inner reserve of Darling Gardens, until then a bare patch used largely for grazing and sporting activities, 'to make that reserve more suitable for recreation'. (76) In May the following year the committee met government representatives who expressed great surprise and satisfaction at the improvements to the gardens. An adjournment was then made to Cr Wilkins residence where it was agreed to the erection of a bandstand. (77) Tenders were called the following month for a 'Bandstand Pavilion' and by mid-July the Secretary of Collingwood Citizens Band was able to offer the services of the band at the opening of the new bandstand in the Darling Gardens. (78) His offer was followed closely by a similar letter from the Secretary of the Clifton Hill Brass Band wishing 'to play at suitable times in the Darling Gardens during the summer months'. (79) Mirroring contemporary mores, the council passed a resolution 'That bands be not allowed to play in our parks and gardens on Sundays without special permission granted in open council'. (80)

The bandstand was the focus of a special Municipal Arbor Day in August 1907, when many of the new paths of the inner reserve of Darling Gardens were planted. From the bandstand, the Mayor welcomed the crowd and introduced Hon. Mr. Mackey, the Minister of Lands who 'with other high officials had come to witness the tree planting'. (81)

The bandstand was possibly demolished by 1945 as it does not appear to show on an aerial photograph of that date (see plan 18).

Analysis

This bandstand was similar to other contemporary bandstands, e.g. Maryborough (c.1904 - extant) and is derived from examples found in British seaside and public parks. Its roof form echoes the form of the shed (q.v.) and this may have been a conscious design decision. The bandstand gate (or principal elevation) faced the north-west entrance of Darling Gardens perhaps indicating that this was the most important entrance to the site. The bandstand was reconstructed in 1976 (see Section 4.7.1).

Collingwood High School buildings

History

Collingwood High School was destroyed by fire in 1971 and after considering a range of sites Darling Gardens was selected as a temporary site for a new facility composed primarily of portable buildings. The school was in operation from 1972-75 and is clearly shown in the 1974 aerial photograph (see plan 23) and contemporary plans. (82)

Analysis

These buildings served as a catalyst for local residents to form a group which could closely monitor developments in Darling Gardens. Although the buildings were temporary, they were substantial and were imposed on the site with little consideration for the cultural significance of the area.

Assessment of cultural significance:

A: form and siting of reconstructed bandstand, rock edges to paths, removal of original and early fencing

B: electricity sub-station, cannon

N: form of lighting fixtures, pergola, Clifton Hill Maternal and Child Health Centre building, form of seats, barbecues, drinking fountains, fabric of reconstructed bandstand, toilet block, playground equipment, form of rubbish bins, form of signs

I: bus shelter, loss of rockery, siting of Maternal and Child Health Centre building

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- 4 e.g. see M H Agnew, City Engineer to Mr B Way, Public Lighting Superintendent, State Electricity Commission, 9 December 1975 referring to lighting and underground wiring in conjunction with the new barbecue installation adjacent to the Baby Health Centre, City of Collingwood file 112/1.
- 5 City of Collingwood file 112/1.
- 6 M. Miller, pers.comm, 3 April 1993.
- 7 Graeme Loughlin, pers.comm.
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- 81 *Collingwood Observer*, 8 August 1907.
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4.8 CONTEXT

History

The early history of the area around Darling Gardens is treated in section 2.1. The extension of Collingwood north of the area developed by the city's first land sales, lead to a more substantial, predominantly residential development pattern than the southern section of Collingwood. The elevated and well drained position, separated from noxious industry provided a more favoured residential environment. Hoddle Street provided a direct link with the seat of municipal government and, accordingly, the south east corner of Darling Gardens was seen as a prominent focus for civic pride, reflected in the 1890s by its development with a pond, rockery and hedged bedding.

Queens Parade developed as a retail focus. This provided an additional attraction to the Darling Gardens area and both the garden and shops were shared with an affluent section of North Fitzroy. The proximity of the gardens to the commercial centre and to the cable tram which ran down the centre of Queens Parade, provided an important focus to the north-west corner entrance to the gardens.

The gardens initially attracted many substantial houses and was obviously a desirable address, with residents seeking to emulate European squares. Most of the houses only boasted small private gardens and horticultural activity was encouraged by the formation of the Collingwood and Clifton Hill Horticultural Society in 1897.

Gold Street was the site of the first St Philip's Church, erected in 1871 and enlarged a year later. Gold Street State School was designed by noted architect W.H. Ellerker in 1874 and was among the earliest state schools built following the 1872 Education Act. The building formed a dominant backdrop to the gardens when the area was only partially developed. School children used Darling Gardens for play and during 1907 planted trees there. An early undated photograph (c.1876-94) shows teachers and children in Darling Gardens. Gold Street generally developed in the 1880s and 1890s as a combination of substantial single storey villas and double storey terraces. The development pattern lacks the cohesion of extended terraces.

South Terrace also developed in the 1880s and 1890s with an attractive sequence of single storey villas punctuated with several two storey terraces, two pairs and two single residences. Early this century St Andrew's church added further emphasis at the corner of Gold Street.

North Terrace, although first developed in the same period as the other two streets, was not fully developed east of the Langridge residence by 1897 (see plan 11). George Langridge was a prominent local figure, as mayor and local MLA (1874-1891). The Langridge residence (1883-84) dominated North Terrace and its large garden occupied a substantial part of this land. Further development and the subdivision of larger allotments resulted in an ongoing development of new houses until the late 1920s. The Langridge house and its special pair of street trees (planted 1890) provided a physical embodiment of the status of a successful inner suburban real estate agent turned politician. This prestigious location, blessed with the green expanses of Darling Gardens, contrasted with his business location among the tenements and factories of the older section of Collingwood. His residence here would have placed the social seal of approval on the Darling Gardens as a desirable address. His political status must have influenced the council's substantial investment in the development of the gardens. North Terrace was also the site of Kings College, thought to be the building at No 6; early college advertising spoke of Darling Gardens as 'a large playground'.

Hoddle Street was (and still is) one of Melbourne's main north-south thoroughfares and was the basis of the alignment of the railway to Clifton Hill, opened in the 1880s. The station provided a major focus for pedestrian traffic and the crossing of Darling Gardens was a frequent part of this activity. The station building and its associated works (e.g. signal box, level crossing gates) all form part of the environment of Darling Gardens and provide links with the history of this area.

Current state

This buildings fronting Darling Gardens form an important part of the character of the Darling Gardens precinct. Detailed comments on the four frontages are as follows.

Gold Street: Redevelopment of two of the larger detached villas has resulted in three storey modern developments (193-199 and 211) that detract from the Victorian and Edwardian character of the gardens environment. The other buildings are either contributory (e.g. 203, 205, 207, 217, 221, 223, 225, 227, 231, 236, 237 and 239) or make little impact. These buildings include two intact rows of Victorian terraces. The integrity of some of these buildings detract from the significance of the area. 203, 205, 207 and 231 have been recorded as being of regional significance.

South Terrace: Redevelopment of one of the terrace pairs 10, 11 and several villas and the church have dramatically changed the streetscape. Five modern apartment developments predominantly three storeys are now dominant elements. The integrity of remaining buildings is not high in many cases. Contributory buildings are 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27. 6 and 13-14 have been recorded as being of regional significance.

North Terrace: This block has been spared the intrusive flat developments that detract from the other two streets. It contains a legacy of buildings from the 1880s to the 1920s. Apart from the Langridge mansion, all houses are single storey. The integrity of many houses is only fair. All of the buildings are contributory buildings despite the varied architectural character and degree of integrity. The Langridge residence, 12-16, has been recorded as being of regional significance.

Hoddle Street: A totally different development character resulted from the railway and commercial development. These do not have the strong relationship of the other three streets. The buildings and streetscape are generally of an intrusive character; the rail way signal box is the only contributory building.

The streetworks in the vicinity of Darling Gardens consist of basalt pitched kerb and channels predominate for both sides of the surrounding roads. The Hoddle Street edge of the John's Reserve has an open spoon drain without a kerb (although this is scheduled for replacement). Concrete kerbs and channels are confined to the east side of both Gold Street and Hoddle Street. Recent traffic measures have included a narrowing of the carriageway at the corner of North Terrace and Gold Street (with a planted island bed) and narrowings of the carriageway in Gold Street and South Terrace. The only early street tree plantings consist of two mature elms in North Terrace which remain from an avenue planted by Langridge. More recent street trees are planted in the pavements adjacent to the houses [FG - check]. On South Terrace there are high tension powerlines on the same side as the gardens.

Significant landmarks visible from Darling Gardens include the shot tower, spires of St John's and the former Wesleyan Church, Town Hall towers at Collingwood and Fitzroy, Exhibition Buildings, and long vistas to Kew and Studley Park. More recent landmarks include city tower blocks and the light towers at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Analysis

The traditionally important approach to the gardens was from the south-east and this was reflected in the siting of the horticulturally intensive rockery, pond and hedged bedding in this location. Today the approach has a much more desultory treatment and lacks proper definition. The other important entry point at the diagonally opposite corner (north-west) is now substantially diluted by the dominance of the recent planting of the traffic island.

There are several other public parks and gardens in the City of Collingwood although none is comparable to Darling Gardens. The others include:

- Mayor's Park (north of Darling Gardens) is largely used for sporting facilities and now sadly bereft of most of its early planting.
- A garden at the tip of Heidelberg Road and Queens Parade, remnants only of the formerly well maintained triangular block.
- Victoria Park, extensively developed for sporting activities
- Gahan Reserve, east of the Collingwood Town Hall, largely open with mature palm trees, houses an early Infant Welfare Centre.
- Planting between carriageways of Alexandra Parade, now reduced to some mature trees, including several distinctive palms.
- Planting between carriageways of Victoria Parade still retain a magnificent avenue of mature tree although the hedged enclosure of the tram tracks was removed in the late 1970s or early 1980s.
- Various reserves abutting the Merri Creek and Yarra River have all been developed relatively recently, largely on former industrial land. The planting of these areas has a heavy emphasis on Australian native plants, reflecting the wave of enthusiasm for these plants in the 1970s.

The character and significance of Darling Gardens depends substantially on the urban context. The vistas within the gardens generally extend to the surrounding buildings and street trees. Accordingly, the historical, architectural and landscape significance of these surrounds is included in this analysis of the gardens.

With regard to topography and aspect Darling Gardens is located on high land that is fairly level. Views are provided to the south and east over the Yarra Bend Park, the Collingwood Town Hall and closer, the shot tower and Gold Street Primary School. The best views are obtained from the south east sector, due in part to the more open nature of the gardens and the fall of the land. Many of the significant landmarks noted above have considerable associative importance, being linked with municipal pride (Collingwood Town Hall), the industrial legacy of the suburb (the shot tower) or institutional development (church spires).

Although the buildings fronting Darling Gardens retain a certain coherence of scale, siting and age, the relative lack of consistency of form and the redevelopment of many properties has denied the gardens the strong perimeter that characterises Edinburgh Gardens and St Vincent Gardens.

The impact of post World War Two developments has been detrimental to the visual amenity of Darling Gardens, although the area has been spared the full flowering of the development boom of the 1960s, demonstrated so convincingly in St Kilda, or in the Housing Commission blocks elsewhere in the municipality.

Traffic has profoundly affected the amenity of the gardens. Hoddle Street being a metropolitan arterial road carries large volumes, fortunately, the formal double avenue of trees on the Hoddle Street interface of Johns Reserve provides a critical buffer from the gardens proper. Through traffic on the other streets has led to the need for the traffic control measures, both for the amenity of the gardens as well as the residents. There is a major impact on the character of the context to the gardens resulting from the design of some of the recent street works aimed at controlling traffic. Concrete splitters and other diversion structures have made an adverse impact. This is on account of materials, planting and design.

The use of basalt for kerbs and channels makes an important reinforcement of the basalt edging and works within the gardens. Plain concrete, whether permanent in-situ kerbs and channels or pre-cast units, conflict with the basalt theme of the gardens and the Victorian and Edwardian character of the precinct.

The informal planting and chosen species within the road restrictions at the north west corner completely conflict with the significant character of the gardens as well as obscuring one of the main entrances to the gardens.

The more recent island planting in Gold Street, however, has a more formal character in design and simplicity of layout, the basalt surrounds are more sympathetic than the concrete, although the black mortar joints are not appropriate to the nineteenth century character of the gardens context.

The street trees have a desultory character and are of species that do little to enhance the building stock or the gardens. The overhead powerlines on the pavements adjacent to the houses have apparently prevented larger trees with a more sympathetic character being planted. The only exceptions are the two elms planted in the road way outside the Langridge residence.

Assessment of cultural significance

Vistas from the gardens, especially to lowerlying parts of Commingwood to the south
(including the Town Hall and shot tower): A
Views of the gardens from all surrounding streets: A
Avenue of trees in Hoddle Street and continued management of this area as an adjunct to
Darling Gardens: A
individual buildings (see Analysis; also rankings in Andrew Ward, Conservation Study)
recent traffic measures: N
planting of bed on North Terrace, corner Gold Street: I
Street trees in North Terrace: A
Spoon drains and early basalt pitched kerbs and channels: A

5.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF DARLING GARDENS

This section should be read with the individual sub-sections entitled 'Assessment of cultural significance in Section 4.0.

5.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Darling Gardens is historically significant, not only to the local community but also to the Melbourne metropolitan area as a whole. This derives from many different facets of its development and is summarised in this section.

For its retention of complementary overlays of development

Darling Gardens comprises two major periods of planting and development: the 1880s-90s and c.1905-07. Other planting and works have occurred, but it is these two dates which have substantially contributed to the current significance of Darling Gardens. These two developments have been complementary (possibly the result of a single design of the early 1880s) and form the framework of a very fine garden. This overlay of mid-Victorian and Edwardian development is found in several Melbourne parks, most notably St Vincent Gardens, South Melbourne and Alma Park, St Kilda. Darling Gardens has few intrusions, except for the siting of the Infant Welfare Centre, and important elements from both periods of development are present (see below).

As a residential square

Darling Gardens is a characteristic example of a residential square, based on British and other European precedents. Like other Victorian examples its reservation dates from the early 1860s. The original 'ornamental roads', although not developed according to their original plan, strongly influenced the subsequent layout and planting. Although the semi-circular path under the elm avenue is now grassed, it was clearly evident as recently as the 1960s. The semi-circular paths bear a resemblance to a similar path at Fitzroy Gardens (planned by 1858) and also to the use of curved roadways at St Vincent Gardens (early 1850s); each of these designs may be attributed to Clement Hodgkinson.

The oval plan, now reflected in the semi-circular avenue at the western end and remnants of the eastern semi-circular row of trees, recalls European precedents (see section 4.2)

Of the relatively few Victorian examples of residential squares, Darling Gardens lacks the sophisticated urban form, and the remarkable sense of enclosure provided by architecturally important nineteenth century building stock and detailed landscape treatment found at St Vincent Gardens, South Melbourne. It is, however, comparable to Argyle Square, Curtain Square, Lincoln Square, Macarthur Square and Murchison Square, Carlton; University Square, Barry Street, Parkville; and Darling Square, East Melbourne although much larger than some of these examples. Of the nearby gardens, Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy is the most comparable example, although each has differing attributes.

For planting and layout from the late nineteenth century

Darling Gardens retains considerable planting and layout from the late nineteenth century. The western semi-circular elm avenue (planted 1882) with its associated pathway and the remnants of the eastern semi-circular avenue are unusual features and one of the most significant aspects of the site. The semi-circular fence-line at the eastern end is still marked by several trees and although an important design feature, it does not now form a strong element in the gardens. The semi-circular paths form a promenade drawing strongly on European traditions.

The corner entry paths, especially their bent alignment, form critical parts of the overall design and despite their loss of planting still remain as important elements of Darling Gardens. These

corner paths were not linked until the early twentieth century, but this linkage was probably part of the original design.

The avenue along the Hoddle Street reservation, although technically outside the site, is a complementary feature; both avenues provide an sense of enclosure.

Several specimen trees date from the late nineteenth century and some, like the massive elm on South Terrace, are key features from the early planting of the Gardens.

For planting and layout from the early twentieth century

Darling Gardens retains many elements from the early twentieth century, most notably the diagonal path system, the form and siting of the bandstand, the bandstand bed (although not its current planting), several specimen trees, the lawns and many avenue plantings. These combine to form a garden that is relatively formal in layout (although the formal avenues were probably anticipated in the 1880s plan), yet planted in such a manner that softens the rigid layout of paths. The strong diagonal paths at Darling Gardens are a feature of mid-Victorian era parks such as Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Carlton Gardens, Fawkner Park, Rosalind Park, Bendigo and are not commonly associated with Edwardian-era parks in Melbourne.

Of the Edwardian parks in Melbourne, Central Park, Malvern is perhaps the most comparable in size and urban setting to Darling Gardens. It has elements of formality, although not to the same extent as Darling Gardens, yet these two parks are a long way removed from the informal character of say the design at Queen Victoria and Alexandra Gardens (Melbourne), Alexandra Gardens (Kew), Queens Park (Moonee Ponds), Coburg Lake, Wattle Park (Box Hill), Edwardes Lake Park (Reservoir) and Hedgeley Dene (Malvern). Footscray Park also incorporates many formally planned paths but this park too has an informal planting character and lacks the dominant intersecting avenues of Darling Gardens.

Surviving trees and plants

Many of the trees at Darling Gardens are of considerable historical significance. This is due to several factors. Some are significant for their age (almost half of the trees date from the nineteenth century). The trees are also representative of various eras in the history of the gardens and provide a sense of both continuity and layers of history; thus the trees provide a direct interpretation of the history of the gardens.

Buildings and works

Darling Gardens contains several buildings and works which contribute to its significance, either by their early date of construction or contribution to the design of the gardens. These include the siting and form of the reconstructed bandstand, the electricity sub-station, cannon and stone edges to the paths, seat bays and corner entrances.

Link with urban form of Melbourne, and Collingwood in particular

By its rectangular shape, Darling Gardens forms part of the major survey pattern of Melbourne's inner suburbs although this is a characteristic it shares with many other public parks and gardens throughout Victoria. This provides an important historical and architectural context for the gardens and the surrounding suburban development. Both Gardens and residences were developed during a similar period and this complementary phase reinforces the significance of the precinct.

For its collection of documentary evidence

There is a wealth of documentary evidence for Darling Gardens. The official council records, articles abstracted from local newspapers and wide range of early photographs are a rich source upon which to draw and interpret the gardens. This documentary evidence helps in understanding and revealing the cultural significance of the Gardens.

5.2 AESTHETIC/VISUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Darling Gardens displays aesthetic significance of a high order, resulting from a skilful combination of its various landscape attributes. Accordingly the individual facets of aesthetic significance are outlined separately.

Structure of landscape forms

Darling Gardens is a relatively simple designed landscape relying on a small number of strong elements such as avenues of trees, diagonal paths and the central focus of the bandstand.

Paths: The entry paths, their alignment bent as a conscious design element, still provide access to the site although their early planting has now vanished. The straight paths focussing on the bandstand serve to both separate and link the various parts of the Gardens. The semi-circular avenue path (now grassed) is still used and provides a fine means of experiencing the mature avenue plantings.

Avenue plantings: the avenues, both curved and straight, at Darling Gardens provide a strong design element and the canopies of foliage provide a considerable contribution to the aesthetic significance of the site. The variety of species provides differing experiences for the visitor and this mix of species could prove beneficial if the elms eventually succumb to disease.

Lawns: the lawns at Darling Gardens form a large area of the site and permit long views within the site and out into the surrounding landscape. They provide a contrast with the dark avenues of mature elms.

Specimen trees: these serve to punctuate open lawns and some, of considerable age and size, act as visual highlights in the garden. The lack of shrubbery now gives a simplicity and almost skeletal quality to the site. Although there is room for careful shrub planting, the mature trees are the greatest asset of Darling Gardens.

Character of structures and works: rock edges to the paths (although often now disguised) form a unifying element in Darling Gardens. The reconstructed bandstand is an essential element in the design of Darling Gardens and forms a focus along almost all the major avenue paths. It is the main structure that contributes to the aesthetic significance of Darling Gardens.

Link with contiguous parks and reserves

Darling Gardens derives considerable aesthetic benefit from its link with the Hoddle Street reservation (especially its avenue plantings), including views to and from the two parcels of land. The visual link with Mayor's Park also contributes to this category of significance, although the connection is not strong.

Views to and from the site

External vistas are extremely important in Darling Gardens especially given the intactness of surrounding urban development and the elevation of the site compared with the lower lying parts of Collingwood to the south. The most important vistas are to the shot tower, the clock tower of Collingwood Town Hall, the surrounding church spires and to trees in Yarra Bend Park.

Many of the surrounding buildings were constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and these complement the character of the gardens. Close and distant views to Darling Gardens are also important, especially the interface with Hoddle Street, surrounding residential streets and the railway. Regretably, views to and from the south-east corner of the site, traditionally a principal point of entry, are now dominated by the Maternal and Child Health Centre.

Vistas within Darling Gardens

There are also many important vistas within the gardens, especially along avenues and across the lawns.

Colour

Colour is introduced into the gardens in a variety of ways. There is firstly the background of light green lawns and generally dark background foliage. This is variable depending on the season and atmospheric conditions. Coloured highlights are also provided by occasional flower beds although this element of Darling Gardens is relatively neglected compared with its former prominence. Different foliage on the mixture of species which form the avenues provide contrast. There are few discordant elements and most structures and works are painted to blend rather than contrast with the plants.

Foliage

Considerable aesthetic significance is derived from plant foliage. At Darling Gardens there is contrast in size, colour and form; this is complemented by textural elements such as bark and fruits. With the loss of shrub beds, especially around the bandstand and at the entrances, the significance of this aspect of Darling Gardens has been diminished.

Texture

Texture is provided by bark and leaves (both on trees and as dead leaves on the ground). Contrasting textures are also provided by the combination of the hard path surfaces and the softer lawn surfaces.

Size and habit of plants

The large size of many trees in Darling Gardens contributes to aesthetic significance. Their form, particularly the avenue plantings and extremely old specimen trees on lawns, contributes to this significance. This general character of avenues is punctuated by a number of individual trees, in particular palms which provide a major landscape element.

Contrast between seasons

The large percentage of deciduous trees in Darling Gardens ensures contrast between seasons. This aspect gives the gardens considerable aesthetic significance and also triggers associational factors in the mind of the viewer (e.g. the link with British and European gardens).

5.3 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Darling Gardens is significant as a public place with social importance relating to its history, function, community and context. The meanings and values which are important to the local community of residents, form a collective attachment to the Gardens which has been expressed in words and in the way the park is used by visitors.

History of association

The Gardens are valued to a high degree by a community which is locally based, mostly living within easy walking distance of the Gardens. Many individuals in this community have been active over the years in controversial issues surrounding the management of the Gardens. This history of association has strengthened the community's sense of responsibility for the park.

Context

For many visitors, the Gardens contain an affectionate association with the past. In the context of the surrounding Victorian and Edwardian architecture, the Gardens are valued as a place reminiscent of a bygone era, one which may not necessarily be part of the observer's personal experience. Darling Gardens is also highly valued as a rare open space in the local area, compensating for the lack of private garden space.

Community

The Gardens is a special place where people engage in social interaction, both organised and incidental. Picnics and school social events occur in the open spaces of the Gardens while the paths and seating areas are where spontaneous social interaction takes place between regular users of the park. This experience of community is highly valued.

Darling Gardens is significant for its long and continued usage as a public garden with a strong tradition as a place for family and community group activities.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre, located within the Gardens, is important to users of the infant welfare service, which is enhanced by the park setting. Adjacent play equipment and barbeques provide a location for community activities linking the function of the Centre with other social uses in the Gardens. Further research is required to establish whether the Gardens are of social significance to users of the Centre. A prominent sector of the community considers the building to be of no appreciable cultural significance.

5.4 SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Darling Gardens has limited scientific significance. One attribute under this heading is the large number of exotic trees with well documented dates of planting. In regard to the elms this may be of some use when measures are taken to counteract the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease, Elm Leaf Beetle and Elm Bark Beetle. A large elm tree in Darling Gardens is also included on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees for its outstanding size.

The plants in Darling Gardens represent a bank of material upon which present and future generations may wish to draw. Such a plant collection requires expert care but is a rich resource for the community, now and in the future.

The site may contain some limited archaeological value or research value; for example, evidence of the early 'ornamental roads' may still exist and it may be possible to determine their nature by archaeological techniques.

5.5 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Darling Gardens, set aside in 1863, the outer reserves planted in the 1880s-90s, the inner reserve developed c.1905-07 and continuously maintained as a public garden is of metropolitan cultural significance:

Historically

- for its retention of overlays of development, a feature found in other Melbourne gardens but here notable for their complementary and probably designed nature and for the retention of key elements of each period;
- as a representative and intact example of a residential square based on British and other European precedents and still used for its original purpose; this attribute is enhanced by the large number of intact Victorian and Edwardian residences around the perimeter and in the near vicinity;
- for its planting and path layout from the late nineteenth century; key attributes include the semi-circular elm avenues, links with the Hoddle Street avenue and several specimen trees. The design reflects prevailing horticultural trends and is now a fine example of this garden type. In its widespread use of exotic plants, especially elm species, the garden is representative of British and European influence on colonial gardens. The loss of many trees and the siting of the Maternal and Child Health Centre have downgraded the significance of the eastern semi-circular avenue;
- for its planting and layout from the early twentieth century; key attributes include the diagonal path system (although probably planned at an earlier date), the form and siting of the bandstand, the form of the bandstand bed, several specimen trees, the lawns and many avenue plantings;
- for surviving trees and plants, many of considerable age; these are representative of various eras in the history of the gardens and also of horticultural trends in Victorian gardens;
- for several buildings and works which contribute to the design of the gardens; these include the siting and form of the reconstructed bandstand, the electricity sub-station, cannon and stone edges to the paths. The loss of the rockery and pond has downgraded the significance of this aspect;
- for its link with the urban form of Melbourne, and Collingwood in particular; this is especially true of the rectangular site (which forms part of Melbourne's early grid plan) and the relationship of Darling Gardens to the largely residential surrounding area;
- for its collection of documentary evidence which enables a clear interpretation of the importance of the site.

Aesthetically

- for its considerable aesthetic qualities, which derive principally from the structure of landscape forms (including paths, avenue plantings, lawns, specimen trees, structures and works), link with contiguous parks and reserves, views to and from the site, vistas within the site, colour, foliage, texture, size and habit of plants and contrast between seasons;
- for its relatively simple yet sophisticated design relying on a small number of strong elements such as avenues of trees, curved corner entry paths, diagonal paths and the central focus of the bandstand.

Socially

- as a focus of community sentiment over a long period; its social importance to current users is heightened by its ease of access, its provision of open space within a dense urban setting, as a

venue for community interaction, its strong tradition of usage by families, and the shared bond by those involved in protecting this asset over a long period;

- o for its long and continuous usage as a public garden; this tradition is strongly acknowledged and appreciated by users who see the historic qualities as a major attribute of the site. The shared character of the garden and its surrounding residential area is another key attribute.

Scientifically

- o some importance is attached to the plants for their well documented dates of planting;

- o the plants in Darling Gardens represent a bank of material upon which present and future generations may wish to draw.

PART TWO: CONSERVATION POLICY

6.0 STATEMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICY

Introduction: Darling Gardens is a site of sufficient cultural significance to warrant special care in its maintenance and future development. Part One of this report (Sections 1.0 to 5.0) has assessed the cultural significance of the site - the reasons why the place is important - and Part Two (Sections 6.0 and 7.0) provides a framework for guiding the future maintenance and development of the garden.

Section 6.0 provides a succinct series of policy statements which are supported by a rationale and a brief comments on the major implications. The policies are based directly on the assessment which is contained in Part One of this report and they transform historical facts and analysis into a firm basis for future management.

Section 7.0 provides a strategy for implementing the policies. This section provides a number of specific actions and suggests a time frame or priority which would best conserve the gardens.

To achieve conservation of Darling Gardens it is crucial that these policies and the strategy for their implementation are widely accepted both in council and in the community. An important part of this study has been consultation with the community and their input has been important in shaping the form of this study.

6.1 Values represented by Darling Gardens

Policy: That Darling Gardens be recognised as a place of cultural significance, with attributes embracing aesthetic, historic, social and scientific.

Rationale: The details of the significance are described in the Conservation Analysis (Part One) and especially the Statement of Cultural Significance (Section 5.5).

Major implications

Darling Gardens must be managed in a manner which reflects its cultural significance. The accepted convention in Australia for conservation of such places is the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Place of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) and its associated Guidelines. A copy of the Charter is included as Appendix Two of the Conservation Analysis.

The Burra Charter calls for the maintenance of an appropriate visual setting (e.g. form, scale, colour, texture and materials). No new construction, demolition or modification which would adversely affect the setting should be allowed. Environmental intrusions which adversely affect the appreciation or enjoyment of the place should be excluded.

Appropriate management strategies to achieve these requirements are contained in this Conservation Policy.

Darling Gardens must not be seen as vacant space for council projects (e.g. sporting facilities, temporary schools, etc.)

6.2 Period of major significance

Policy: That the scheme implemented from the early 1880s to its maturity in the first half of the twentieth century be regarded as the period of major significance for Darling Gardens.

Rationale: This period is implicit in the Statement of Cultural Significance (Section 5.5), which is drawn from a thorough analysis of the site and its history. During this period of major significance:

- the 1863 site boundaries had contained development of the site;
- the 1880s-90s path layout and avenue tree plantings were initiated, including an avenue of trees, now largely removed, at the eastern end of the oval inner reserve;
- the 1905-06 path layout and bandstand were initiated;
- toilets and playground equipment (although not the existing structures) had been added;
- all fencing had been removed.

Major implications

Strategies for implementation are given in Section 7.0 of this Conservation Policy.

6.3 Boundary

Policy: That Gold Street, North and South Terraces and Hoddle Street be regarded as the boundary of Darling Gardens.

Rationale: These boundaries were determined in the 1863 reservation and consolidated with the grant of the site in 1878. The 'ornamental roads', although not officially included within the gardens until 1956 were nevertheless treated as an integral part of the gardens from its earliest history.

Major implications

The current boundary should be maintained; see specific implications of 'Context' (Section 7.8) for the Hoddle Street reservation.

The temporary reservation of the Maternal and Child Health Centre should be revoked and the area re-incorporated into the Darling Gardens reservation.

6.4 Purpose and use of Darling Gardens

Policy: That the whole of Darling Gardens be regarded as a site for public gardens and public recreation and that traditional use patterns of Darling Gardens be given priority.

Rationale: These two purposes (either singly or in combination) constituted the purpose of the place from 1863 to 1956. This span covers the whole of the period judged to be of highest cultural significance in the history of the site. Traditional uses are generally the best way of managing culturally significant sites; such uses generally include well accepted maintenance techniques or routines, permit use by people and functions for which they were designed or created, or allow the historical links between design and use to be maintained and so retain the significance of the site.

Major implications

Traditional uses during the period of major significance (see Policy 6.2) have included enjoyment of the public garden and public recreation, including picnicking and limited provision of children's play equipment. They have not included competitive sport, organised child care, on-site car parking, large scale nursery operations or the like.

The majority of activities have been restricted to daylight hours and there is no precedent for any lighting other than that necessary for personal safety after daylight. Permanent uses which involve night time activities would not be consistent with this policy.

Traditional use involves the provision of a minimum of public toilet facilities. The current

toilets cater for a far larger number of users than is necessary.

6.5 Interpretation

Policy: That the cultural significance of Darling Gardens be adequately interpreted to the users, managers and owners of the place.

Rationale: Darling Gardens forms a rich cultural environment in suburban Melbourne. If the place is to be adequately maintained and appreciated it is essential that users and managers are aware of its attributes.

Major implications

The material contained in the Conservation Analysis should be made freely available and its dissemination should be through a variety of forms to suit differing levels of appreciation. These could range from a simple pamphlet to publication of the Conservation Analysis and Statement of Conservation Policy or other suitably detailed form.

Once agreement on the conservation policies has been reached (see Policy 6.7) the most vital need is the preparation of a simplified form of this document. This would best be achieved by a document, perhaps A3 or A2 sized, which allowed reproduction of a key early plan, some early photographs and a plan showing proposed conservation actions and their priorities. An item in council estimates should be set aside for this purpose.

This study has relied upon many rare and often irreplaceable documentary items. It is imperative that such items (e.g. plans, council minute books, photographs, etc.) be adequately conserved to enable others who follow to draw again on these resources.

6.6 Priorities for works

Policy: That priority is given to works which are directed at conserving the significant fabric of Darling Gardens.

Rationale: This would provide the best means of conserving the cultural significance of Darling Gardens. It would also avoid any unnecessary expenditure of funds or effort on projects not directed at the conservation of significant fabric.

Major implications

Works should be prioritised into the following categories:

- ongoing (inclusive term to include all priority levels);
- immediate (to be undertaken within the next twelve months);
- short term (works to commence in 1-5 years);
- medium term (works to commence in 5-10 years); and
- long term (works to commence in 10-20 years).

Recommended priorities are contained in the following section on implementation strategy (Section 7.0)

6.7 Adoption of Policy

Policy: That the City of Collingwood formally adopt the Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy as official council policy for Darling Gardens and progressively implement its recommendations.

Rationale: The Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy lists a strategy for managing Darling Gardens to best maintain its cultural significance. If, following consultation with the community, the Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy is not formally adopted and progressively implemented there is a likelihood that the cultural significance of Darling Gardens will be jeopardised.

Major implications

Community input should be sought on the recommendations of this study.

The council's planning department, as commissioning agent for this study, should prepare a council agenda item which incorporates the above recommendation.

Detailed documentation should be prepared or commissioned by the City of Collingwood for all the items listed as priorities in the following strategy for implementation of the conservation policy (Section 7.0).

Once adopted the report should be readily available, especially to users and managers of Darling Gardens. This is especially true of council staff or contractors who are undertaking work in the gardens. See Policy 6.5 for the need to prepare a simplified form of the study report to facilitate dissemination of its contents and recommendations.

6.8 Review of policy

Policy: That the Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy be reviewed on a regular basis.

Rationale: This will ensure that new evidence or analysis can be properly assessed and if necessary incorporated into revisions of both the Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy.

Major implications

All new historical data and details of additional physical evidence need to be carefully collected by the City of Collingwood and reviewed to determine whether they add to (or conflict with) the existing Conservation Analysis and Statement of Conservation Policy.

The Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy should be reviewed at least once every ten years.

Monitoring of the implementation of the Conservation Policy could be undertaken by an annual report to the council and the community.

7.0 STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION POLICY

7.1 Introduction

This strategy builds on the framework provided by the preceding Statement of Conservation Policy and allows for the policies to be progressively implemented. The strategy acknowledges limitations of finance and resources and recognises that immediate increases in these two areas are unlikely to occur. There are a number of items which will incur considerable cost and these should be included in council's forward estimates according to the priority of works.

7.2 Form and design

Ongoing The current alignment of boundaries, western semi-circular path, diagonal paths, northern axial path, diagonal path from South Terrace to north-west corner should be maintained.

Retain all basalt edging to paths but for ease of maintenance leave at current level (i.e. almost submerged).

Medium term A new path should be formed following re-planting of the proposed eastern semi-circular avenue, see Section 7.3, Trees and general planting.

The path around the toilet block should be redesigned in conjunction with proposed eastern semi-circular avenue.

The path from the north-east corner to the Maternal and Child Health Centre should be removed following eventual removal of building, see Section 7.7, Buildings and structures.

7.3 Trees and general planting

7.3.1 General tree maintenance

Ongoing Enhanced maintenance is needed to adequately conserve existing trees and it is essential that damage to the trees is prevented as much as possible.

Identification of the trees and some shrubs has been completed as part of this report (see Section 4.3) but as the study period coincided with winter (i.e. no leaves on deciduous trees), accurate identification has not been possible in all cases. This identification should be continued and information incorporated into a computerised tree management program. Headings could include tree number, location, name, age, size, form, condition, comments and recommendations. A tree survey should record details of tree surgery works as they are carried out and record future works.

A tree maintenance program involving remedial tree surgery, tree removal (where necessary) and improvement of tree condition should be carried out. In order to raise maintenance standards a long term conservation program for major trees and shrubs should be commenced. This should include the following items:

Management

- A program of management of all tree species aimed at their long term stability;
- Planting of sufficient numbers of trees within the next few decades to ensure succession and an uneven age distribution of the specimen trees.

Maintenance

- Planting to replace past losses of trees and shrubs;
- Provision of adequate underground and surface drains;
- Maintenance of all lawn areas, including improved drainage of lawn areas.

Pruning

Formative, regulation or routine pruning, and remedial pruning and tree surgery operations should be carried out on a regular basis by a qualified arborist. The majority of the work should be done in winter when other garden pressures are reduced unless works continue to be contracted out, in which case the timing will need to be co-ordinated with the arborist. The exceptions to this are the identification and removal of dead branches (i.e. deadwooding) or those of low vigour.

Nutrition

Application of a complete fertiliser is advisable as many trees are surrounded by grass. However, a fertiliser program for the grass will also serve to fertilise the trees. In instances where a nutrient deficiency exists in individual trees the advice of a qualified arborist should be sought at an early stage.

Pest and disease control

Correct identification of pests and diseases is essential to maintain a healthy and aesthetic appearance. Correct timing of the appropriate application of herbicides is necessary for effective control. For identification and control procedures arboricultural advice should be sought from a qualified arborist.

Herbicide application around base of trees

When new trees are planted in lawn, an area of 1.4m in diameter should be kept weed free using glyphosate ('Roundup' or a similar brand non-residual herbicide) at the specified rate. A narrow band of glyphosate should be sprayed around the base of tree trunks to reduce tree damage by machinery and to aid maintenance by reducing the time committed to grass cutting. Mulch should also be kept clear of the tree trunk to a distance of approximately 300mm and an excessive build-up of soil around trees avoided.

7.3.2 Replanting of trees

Ongoing

The best means of preventing a decline in tree amenity is to allocate resources for a tree planting program. Should replanting only continue at the present rate (as mature specimens die) the majority of mature

trees will have been removed before the replacements attain a significant size; such a situation would result in a loss of the present character of the gardens. In order to provide for a succession before the bulk of losses occur, this program needs to be commenced immediately.

The choice of trees for replanting should be drawn from the following material:

- species recorded by documentary or physical evidence, especially those planted during the period of greatest significance;
- species considered suitable for prevailing circumstances and conditions (i.e. to take into account uncertain factors such as elm diseases);
- plants of known origin should be used.

All new plantings should be in accordance with an accessions policy. This should include the following:

- location and date of origin of plant;
- accession number;
- plant location;
- date of removal.

The source of plants should be discussed with the Project Officer, Botanic and Public Gardens Advisory Committee.

7.3.3 Avenues in general

The general character of tree planting in the Darling Gardens consists of a limited range of species generally planted in avenues lining the major paths. The species present includes a high proportion of exotics, and in particular elms, oaks and planes, which were species popular in the nineteenth century.

Replanting of sections of avenues and individual trees has taken place in recent years but there has been no planned provision for a succession of trees or avenues. Many of the existing avenues which provide the dominant visual character of the Gardens can be expected to reach the end of their healthy life at approximately the same time. Additional losses may occur as a result of disease, age and condition, and factors such as root compaction, impeded drainage and inadequate irrigation will undoubtedly increase the losses.

When replanting of avenues becomes necessary it is seldom successful to interplant new young species among old mature trees. Unless the replacement species are exceptionally shade tolerant, the competition for light, moisture and nutrients generally produce weak, deformed specimens.

With replacement of avenues a sustained amenity program is often favoured by arborists. This is a program where removal and replacement of trees is carried out in such a way that the avenue character is maintained. For instance, every second tree could be removed and replaced. When the new trees mature, the existing original elms may be removed and replaced.

Another alternative which many arborists recommend is the complete removal of existing avenues of trees prior to replanting. This provides the best solution for the future health of trees and evenness of growth rate of the avenue. However, aesthetically this is often a difficult action to implement and this was widely opposed by the local community during the consultation phase of this study.

Given the opportunity at Darling Gardens of having different aged semi-circular avenues at east and west ends, it may be preferable to adopt a policy of uneven aged avenues (i.e. planting a new semi-circular avenue at the east end and eventually totally replanting the western avenue).

If the various elm diseases which are currently threatening Victorian elm trees afflict the elms in Darling Gardens and in the opinion of an expert arborist the trees are in serious decline, the opportunity should be taken to immediately replant the avenues.

7.3.4 Western semi-circular avenue

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Ongoing | The western semi-circular avenue should be maintained. |
| Immediate | A report by an elm specialist (such as Dr Peter Yau, City of Melbourne) should be sought to provide essential information as to whether there is sufficient space between the existing elms to plant a new row of replacement trees or whether complete replacement is a better option. |
| Long term | Replanting of avenue, depending on report by expert elm specialist. |

7.3.5 Eastern semi-circular avenue

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Immediate | <p>The re-establishment of the eastern avenue is one of the most important aesthetic changes proposed to the gardens by this study. It is essential that proper planning for its re-establishment is undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity. A detailed survey should be undertaken and careful consideration given to the benefits of removal of some existing trees to make way for eventual planting of the new avenue.</p> <p>Existing mature specimens which currently define the alignment of the avenue should be retained and their maintenance needs assessed by an arborist. They are of considerable significance to the history of the gardens and provide tangible evidence of the former eastern semi-circular avenue.</p> |
| Short term | Pending a decision on the relocation of the Maternal and Child Health Centre, a start could possibly be made at the northern half of the proposed avenue. |
| Medium term | <p>Relocation of the Maternal and Child Health Centre function and removal of this building is essential to the successful implementation of the proposed avenue, see Section 7.7, Buildings and structures.</p> <p>Eastern semi-circular avenue to be established with a single species deciduous tree.</p> |

7.3.6 Diagonal avenues

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Ongoing | Maintenance of existing trees. |
| Immediate | A report should be commissioned to enable an expert arboriculturist to assess the trees which make up these avenues and make detailed recommendations. |

Long term Replanting of mature avenues.

7.3.7 *Specimen trees*

Ongoing The position and choice of species of replacement trees should reflect the period of major significance; detailed information on tree species should be drawn from documentary and physical evidence.

The current ratio of trees to open space should be maintained on the lawns areas, with tree replacement to use species known to be associated with Darling Gardens during period of major significance. This would require further detailed research.

7.3.8 *Eastern boundary*

Ongoing Due to insufficient documentary evidence it would not be appropriate at this stage to reinstate the planting scheme indicated by the 1945 aerial photograph at this stage. The ornamental nature of the bed is clear but details of the plant species are unknown. Further documentary evidence should be sought. (See Policy 6.8)

Short term The present mix of predominantly native trees and shrubs along the eastern boundary is considered inappropriate and some longer lived tree and shrub species could be planted here to provide a long term structure to this part of the site. Some specimens of the existing plants may be retained as part of this replanting.

7.3.9 *Removal of trees*

Ongoing Future removal of trees which will or are likely to cause unacceptable damage to paths or structures should form part of a normal maintenance program to be undertaken by competent arborists.

When trees are being removed from the Gardens care should be taken to avoid damage to other plants or structures. Stumps should not remain but be removed by using stump mulching/grinding machines. In the case of species known to sucker, such as elms, the trees should be poisoned while still standing and removed once they have died. This will prevent a generation of suckers following the tree removal. The recommended method is to ringbark the tree and paint the cut area with a non-residual translocated herbicide such as 'Roundup'.

A staged program of tree replacement should be undertaken. Reference should be made to Bennie Hannah & Peter Yau, *Avenues and Boulevards: A guide to their tree management*, Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation and City of Melbourne (Parks and Gardens Division), 1993.

Immediate Some trees may need to be removed because of health/safety; identification and recommendations need to be made by an arborist.

Short term Some trees should be removed because they are inappropriate species, recently planted with no regard for the cultural significance of the site. These include:

Eucalyptus botryoides (Swamp Mahogany)
Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon Scented Gum)
Eucalyptus maculata (Spotted Gum)
 various other *Eucalyptus* spp.
Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea' (Golden Ash)
Fraxinus excelsior 'Raywood' (Claret Ash)
Fraxinus ornus (Desert Ash)
Melaleuca armillaris (Bracelet Honey Myrtle)
Melaleuca linariifolia (Flax Leaf Honey Myrtle)
Melaleuca styphelioides (Prickly Paperbark)

Replanting should have regard to Section 7.3.7.

Medium Some of the dwarf cypress and cypress cultivars surrounding the Maternal and Child Health Centre should also be removed with the eventual removal of the building, see Section 7.7, Buildings and structures.

7.3.10 Staff/contractors education and information

Ongoing Staff and contractors working in Darling Gardens should be informed of significance of the site and of need for sensitivity in the management of significant features. Staff education to cover appropriate maintenance techniques is required. These especially include aspects such as:

- mowing techniques close to trees;
- general tree surgery works and maintenance (but all tree management should be carried out by a qualified arborist);
- fertilisation;
- drainage and irrigation; and
- use of herbicides.

An essential element of tree protection is the prevention of damage rather than treatment after the damage has been done and certain practices should be avoided at all times. These include:

- the placement of excessive soil fill around the roots;
- damage by mowing, whipper-snipping or other mechanical means;
- the compaction of soil over the root zone of a tree as this decreases the tree's accessibility to water and air and is detrimental to the long term health of the tree; and
- herbicide damage which is an often overlooked factor contributing to tree decline. Only non-soil residual herbicides should be used as chemical residual in the soil will be drawn into the tree's root system causing longer term damage to the tree.

7.4 Lawns

Ongoing The current extent of lawn should be maintained.

On lawns, the current ratio of trees to open space should be maintained, see Section 7.3.7.

7.5 Beds and shrubberies

- Ongoing** Due to insufficient documentary evidence it would not be appropriate to reinstate the planting scheme indicated by the 1945 aerial photograph at this stage. The ornamental nature of the bed is clear but details of the plant species are unknown. Further documentary evidence should be sought.
- Immediate** The 'Cottage Garden' bed on Gold Street frontage should be removed and replaced with lawn. If playground equipment is thought to be too close to the street, consideration should be given to relocation of the play equipment.
- Short term** The current structure of the bandstand bed edging should be maintained but replanted with species known to have been present during the period of major significance (as shown in early photographs).
- The beds between the diagonal paths (where they converge on the bandstand) should be reconstructed and replanted using the structure and plant species known to have been present during the period of major significance (as shown in early plans and photographs).
- The existing annual beds at south-east entrance should be removed and replaced in the short term with more appropriate planting (i.e. planting based on the period of major significance). See the following comments regarding possible reconstruction of the rockery/pond.
- Consideration could be given to increasing the planting at the north-west and south-west corners of the gardens, incorporating the present pergola remnants.
- Medium term** It may be possible to reconstruct some beds at the south east corner due to the relatively high level of documentary evidence for this area. Full reconstruction would depend on the medium term removal of the Maternal and Child Health Centre building and detailed analysis of documentary evidence. For the planting along Hoddle Street see Section 7.3.8.

7.6 Use of water

- Ongoing** Ensure that an adequate supply of good quality water is maintained for Darling Gardens.
- Maintain current provision of drinking fountains.
- Immediate** Reconstruction of the pond and rockery at south-east corner would be a difficult exercise and not possible until further documentary evidence was located. A detailed investigation of this area and a reconstruction proposal could form a useful student exercise for a horticultural student. In this way documentation, design and cost could be ascertained prior to approval being given. A separate study of this area should be commissioned.

7.7 Buildings and structures

Ongoing	<p>Retain all basalt edging to paths but for ease of maintenance leave at current level (i.e. almost submerged).</p> <p>Conserve existing electricity sub-station building, even if the facility is subsequently decommissioned.</p> <p>Retain cannon in existing location.</p> <p>Retain existing remnants of pergola without reconstructing missing sections.</p> <p>Retain current number of seats.</p> <p>Introduce early 'Collingwood City Council-style' seats into site when replacement of existing seats becomes necessary, detail to be taken from early documentary evidence (e.g. photo 15).</p> <p>Provision of barbecue facilities, rubbish bins, drinking taps and playground equipment to remain but these facilities (or their replacements) should not increase in extent, nor should they detract from or overwhelm their surroundings or block vistas from the site.</p> <p>Signage in the Darling Gardens (both in number and size) should be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>No part of Darling Garden should be fenced except for temporary purposes (such as an event in the Gardens or for the purposes of protecting new planting).</p>
Immediate	<p>Investigate current and long term needs of Maternal and Child Health Centre facility with a view to its relocation.</p> <p>Investigate use of bus shelter with users and bus operator. The structure does not contribute to the significance of the site and its removal or replacement with a more sympathetic structure should be investigated.</p> <p>Provide lighting adequate for personal safety after daylight hours. At present the lighting is inadequate.</p> <p>Reconstruction of the pond and rockery at south-east corner would be a difficult exercise and not possible until further documentary evidence was located. A detailed investigation of this area and a reconstruction proposal could form a useful student exercise for a horticultural student. In this way documentation, design and cost could be ascertained prior to approval being given. A separate study of this area (including an archaeological component) should be commissioned.</p>
Short term	<p>Retain existing reconstructed bandstand but reconstruct balustrade to match original pattern. Interpret structure so that its 'reconstruction' is recognised.</p>
Medium term	<p>Relocate Maternal and Child Health Centre facility off current site, remove building, reincorporate temporary reserve back into Darling Gardens.</p>

Long term

Toilet block should remain but when due for replacement, a new design of a smaller structure should use at least the footprint and building envelope of the earlier structure on this site.

7.8 Context

Ongoing

The strip of land comprising the eastern section of the Hoddle Street should continue to be managed to form a complement to Darling Gardens.

There is a compelling need to improve the design of traffic control measures around Darling Gardens. The more recent works in Gold Street provide a model for the rest of the surrounding streets. The simple formality of the basalt planting islands relates to the formality of the nineteenth century streetscape. The design of the basalt planting surrounds, with more sympathetic narrow jointing, could be adopted in lieu of concrete. Where concrete is essential, sandblasted precast kerbs of the design used by the City of Melbourne in Lansdowne Street, East Melbourne would be the most appropriate; the same simple geometry of these works should be adopted.

Existing basalt kerbs and channels should be retained. Use of spoon drains and basalt pitched kerbs and channels in surrounding streets should be maintained.

Existing mature street trees in North Terrace should be maintained.

The existing street planting should be reviewed. The existing planting on pavements should be replaced by planting in the roadway such as has occurred outside the Langridge residence in North Terrace, or the island planting in Gold Street. Planting should, however, be confined to positions near the residential pavements, i.e. they should be confined to frontages on the side of the road farthest from Darling Gardens. This would provide some cohesion to the built form by integrating the more disparate elements. Species should be chosen that do not conflict with the strong planting of the gardens. Medium size evergreen trees used in nineteenth century planting could be used. Such planting would complement the established deciduous trees of the gardens.

Immediate

Protective measures should be implemented to conserve significant buildings and a precinct around the site.

Vistas from Darling Gardens should be protected through the City of Collingwood Planning Scheme to restrict heights of new buildings around the perimeter of Darling Gardens. Recommendations in the Collingwood Heritage Study should also be implemented.

Planting in the traffic control works should be removed. There should be no small scale or informal planting within traffic control measures. Any areas that require surfacing should use basalt screenings or bitumen.

Undergrounding of power lines should be investigated with a view to its eventual introduction in streets surrounding Darling Gardens. Subsidies from the SEC may be available for this work.

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- Letter book, 1869-70 (researched by Lois Fox); 1889-92, 1914, 1917-19 (researched by Tina Meyer)
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- Collingwood History Collection, files and photographs

The Darling Gardens Group Inc

- Miscellaneous correspondence, plans, files and photographs
- Transcripts of interviews and 'Attachment to Place, Residents' Statements', various dates

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- Collingwood Infant Welfare Centre, reserve file, Rs 7442
- VPRS 242, unit 532, item 8 (Darling Gardens, 1909 - checked but of no relevance to study)

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- *Clifton Hill Tribune*
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- *Collingwood Observer*
- *The Advertiser*

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

- o MMBW detail plan, 26 August 1897 (Map collection, State Library of Victoria)
- o MMBW detail plan, c.1897-1903 (copy courtesy Graeme Loughlin)

For other maps and plans see Appendix Six

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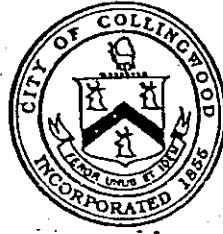
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BRIEF FOR DARLING GARDENS CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

1. THE TASK

The purpose of the Study is to analyse the cultural significance of the Darling Gardens, and to produce a conservation policy for the future.

The Study is to be carried out according to the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) and its guidelines, specifically:-

- * Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance;
- * Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy; and,
- * Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports.

A copy of these are enclosed.

The Study must also address current Council plans for the site (e.g. see 8. Planning and Other Matters) in terms of the Burra Charter.

cont....

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Consultant is expected to indicate the extent of public consultation, and the appropriate point/s at which this should take place. The nature of development of the Gardens is a sensitive local issue.

3. STRUCTURE OF STUDY AND PAYMENT

It is expected that the Study will be conducted in a number of stages. A tentative structure is described below, and is negotiable. In this example, 60 per cent of the commission would be paid at the end of Stage 2, and the remainder on Council's adoption of the Study.

- Stage 1 - Preliminary preparation
- Stage 2 - Draft Report
- Stage 3 - Public Exhibition and Comment
- Stage 4 - Presentation of Public Response for Council Consideration
- Stage 5 - Adoption of Report by Council

Variations to this structure may be suggested. The Consultant will be expected to attend one Council meeting to present the final report.

4. TIME FOR COMPLETION

The Study should be completed no later than April 30th, 1993, including public consultation.

5. FINAL REPORT

The report is to be presented in the form of twenty bound copies for Council purposes, plus one unbound copy for reproduction purposes. Any plans larger than A2 size must be provided as transparencies. The report is to become the property of the City of Collingwood, and be free of copyright.

cont...

6. AVAILABLE MATERIAL

Please find enclosed a title plan, zoning plan, and Board of Works plan of the site.

Other material available for perusal at Council offices include:

1989 Recreation Study;

Existing conditions, planting plan and schematic plan circa 1987;

1900 Board of Works plans, 1"=40' and 1"=160';

Early photographs of the site;

Early layout plans of the site;

Aerial photo (recent), enlarged;

Bicycle Plan.

The Local History Librarian at Carringbush Library (at Collingwood) is likely to have suitable material also.

7. THE SITE

The Darling Gardens has frontages to Hoddle and Gold Streets each of 224 metres, and to North and South Terraces, frontages of 325 metres. The site covers 7.28 hectares.

In 1907 the Gardens were fenced, but now are unfenced. It is an open area, with mature trees, mostly elms, laid out formally. Facilities include a central bandstand, play equipment, barbecue and toilet block. A Maternal and Child Health Centre is located on the eastern side of the Gardens.

The present layout is believed to have been established in 1901, although the Gardens were created by Royal Grant in 1878. The Maternal and Child Health Centre building was constructed in 1956.

cont....

8. PLANNING AND OTHER MATTERS

The site is entirely reserved under the Collingwood Planning Scheme for Public Open Space. It is abutted on the north, west and south sides by Residential C zoned land, and on the east side by a Main Road Reservation (Hoddle Street).

There are no overlay controls affecting the site. Many of the houses facing the site have informal planning protection to retain their architectural character.

The bulk of the Gardens is Permanently reserved under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre building sits mostly in a Temporary Reserve for the purpose of an Infant Welfare Centre, created in 1956. The area of this reserve is 1189 square metres.

Council would like to re-configure the temporary reserve to a shape more useful for the purposes of the Maternal and Child Health Centre, and to alter the purpose of the reserve to include community use. It is currently taking steps to these ends.

9. USE OF THE GARDENS

The Gardens are used by the public for passive recreation - walking, exercising dogs, picnics etcetera.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre is used for infant welfare sessions, occasional child care and as a venue for local community meetings.

10. CONSULTANT PROPOSALS

Consultants may submit a proposal to undertake the commission, such submission to include the following:-

- (a) Curriculum Vitae;
- (b) the professional who will be directing the commission, and the professional who will be undertaking the majority of the actual work of the commission;
- (c) the relevant experience of those named in (b) above;
- (d) the public consultation process proposed;
- (e) the fixed fee for the completion of the commission including incidental expenses.

THE AUSTRALIA
 ICOMOS CHARTER FOR THE
 CONSERVATION OF PLACES OF
 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
 (THE BURRA CHARTER)

Preamble

Having regard to the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1966), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the following Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS on 19th August 1979 at Burra Burra. Revisions were adopted on 23rd February 1981 and on 23 April 1988.

Definitions

ARTICLE 1. For the purpose of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with associated contents and surrounds.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.
- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place*.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its *cultural significance*. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric*, contents and setting of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction* and it should be treated accordingly.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning the EXISTING *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the *fabric*. This is not to be confused with either recreation or conjectural reconstruction which are outside the scope of this Charter.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit proposed compatible uses.
- 1.10 *Compatible use* means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

Conservation Principles

ARTICLE 2. The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place* and must include provision for its security, its *maintenance* and its future.

ARTICLE 3. *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric* and should involve the least possible physical intervention. It should not distort the evidence provided by the *fabric*.

ARTICLE 4. *Conservation* should make use of all the disciplines which can contribute to the study and safeguarding of a *place*. Techniques employed should be traditional but in some circumstances they may be modern ones for which a firm scientific basis exists and which have been supported by a body of experience.

ARTICLE 5. *Conservation* of a *place* should take into consideration all aspects of its *cultural significance* without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others.

ARTICLE 6. The conservation policy appropriate to a *place* must first be determined by an understanding of its *cultural significance*.

ARTICLE 7. The conservation policy will determine which uses are compatible.

ARTICLE 8. *Conservation* requires the maintenance of an appropriate visual setting: e.g., form, scale, colour, texture and materials. No new construction, demolition or modification which would adversely affect the setting should be allowed. Environmental intrusions which adversely affect appreciation or enjoyment of the *place* should be excluded.

ARTICLE 9. A building or work should remain in its historical location. The moving of all or part of a building or work is unacceptable unless this is the sole means of ensuring its survival.

ARTICLE 10. The removal of contents which form part of the *cultural significance* of the *place* is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*. Such contents must be returned should changed circumstances make this practicable.

Conservation Processes

Preservation

ARTICLE 11. *Preservation* is appropriate where the existing state of the *fabric* itself constitutes evidence of specific *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

ARTICLE 12. *Preservation* is limited to the protection, *maintenance* and, where necessary, the stabilisation of the existing *fabric* but without the distortion of its *cultural significance*.

Restoration

ARTICLE 13. *Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric* and only if returning the *fabric* to that state reveals the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

ARTICLE 14. *Restoration* should reveal anew culturally significant aspects of the *place*. It is based on respect for all the physical, documentary and other evidence and stops at the point where conjecture begins.

ARTICLE 15. *Restoration* is limited to the reassembling of displaced components or removal of accretions in accordance with Article 16.

ARTICLE 16. The contributions of all periods to the *place* must be respected. If a *place* includes the *fabric* of different periods, revealing the *fabric* of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of slight *cultural significance* and the *fabric* which is to be revealed is of much greater *cultural significance*.

Reconstruction

ARTICLE 17. *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration and where it is necessary for its survival, or where it reveals the *cultural significance* of the *place* as a whole.

ARTICLE 18. *Reconstruction* is limited to the completion of a depleted entity and should not constitute the majority of the *fabric* of the *place*.

ARTICLE 19. *Reconstruction* is limited to the reproduction of *fabric*, the form of which is known from physical and/or documentary evidence. It should be identifiable on close inspection as being new work.

Adaptation

ARTICLE 20. *Adaptation* is acceptable where the *conservation* of the *place* cannot otherwise be achieved, and where the *adaptation* does not substantially detract from its *cultural significance*.

ARTICLE 21. *Adaptation* must be limited to that which is essential to a use for the *place* determined in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.

ARTICLE 22. *Fabric* of *cultural significance* unavoidably removed in the process of *adaptation* must be kept safely to enable its future reinstatement.

Conservation Practice

ARTICLE 23. Work on a *place* must be preceded by professionally prepared studies of the physical, documentary and other evidence, and the existing *fabric* recorded before any intervention in the *place*.

ARTICLE 24. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the *fabric* or by archaeological excavation should be undertaken where necessary to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the *place* and/or to secure evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible through necessary *conservation* or other unavoidable action. Investigation of a *place* for any other reason which requires physical disturbance and which adds substantially to a scientific body of knowledge may be permitted, provided that it is consistent with the *conservation* policy for the *place*.

ARTICLE 25. A written statement of *conservation* policy must be professionally prepared setting out the *cultural significance* and proposed *conservation* procedure together with justification and supporting evidence, including photographs, drawings and all appropriate samples.

ARTICLE 26. The organisation and individuals responsible for policy decisions must be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

ARTICLE 27. Appropriate professional direction and supervision must be maintained at all stages of the work and a log kept of new evidence and additional decisions recorded as in Article 25 above.

ARTICLE 28. The records required by Articles 23, 25, 26 and 27 should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available.

ARTICLE 29. The items referred to in Articles 10 and 22 should be professionally catalogued and protected.

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

APPENDIX 3: REPORT OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Introduction

The workshop on 3rd April 1993 was attended by twenty-nine residents, a majority of whom lived on the perimeter of the Darling Gardens or close by. There appeared to be only one participant who was currently using the Maternal and Child Health Centre. The workshop was held on a Saturday afternoon which incidentally, was a fine day, and the local football team were playing at home, which could have had an influence on attendance.

The planned format of the workshop was modified during the course of the session to accommodate the dominant concerns of the group arising from the specific issue of the Maternal and Child Health Centre.¹

Aims

The main aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for a greater degree of participation by the community in the definition of the cultural significance of the Gardens and to assist the consultants in formulating priorities for future management policies. A special attempt was made to incorporate the views of the broader community as recommended in the *Collingwood Recreation Needs Study and Strategy Plan (Recreation Needs Study)*. The workshop was publicised throughout the catchment area, in community centres and shops, and through local newsletters.

Method

The workshop was designed to include a presentation by the consultants of the historical research and an explanation of the purpose of the consultation, followed by a discussion session where smaller groups would address issues through a role play. The objectives of this approach were:

1. to pre-empt any bias which might exist within the group;
2. to encourage participants to consider broader issues affecting the park;
3. to encourage participants to think more deeply about what is special about the Gardens, including use, form, aesthetics, history and aspirations for place;
4. to establish priorities for conservation of aspects of the gardens.

The planned format of the workshop was changed after the initial presentations due to participants' concern as to the purpose of this study, which was perceived by some to be an attempt by Collingwood City to reinforce a pro-development policy for the future management of the Gardens. In order to appropriately facilitate in the canvassing of dominant issues, it was decided to record the aspects of the Gardens which those present considered to be important. A clear majority voted to stay as one group for the remainder of the workshop.

Discussion

The following discussion describes the outcome of the workshop after an initial presentation of the history and changes to the Darling Gardens by Richard Aitken, and an explanation of the structure of the study and the notion of social value by Vanessa Walker.

Initially, the question of 'What makes the Gardens special for you?' was asked of the group. The discussion tended towards a list of the positive and negative aspects of the Gardens with some elaboration on specific issues. The proceedings have been recorded under headings of positive and negative qualities pertaining to both use and meaning. A separate list of activities has been made with additional notes on major issues and features.

¹ The Maternal and Child Health Centre at the Hoddle Street edge of Darling Gardens has been a focus for recent controversy regarding its future use. Recent boundary changes and Council approval of the fencing of part of the Centre Reserve have caused considerable concern on the part of local residents who have made official objection through the Friends of the Darling Gardens. There are a number of issues involved in this debate which have been given brief attention here but which deserve separate consideration by Council in further public consultation involving users of the Centre and Darling Gardens.

What makes Darling Gardens special?

Positive Qualities of Gardens

- Open space
- Sense of history
- Fresh air in an inner suburb
- Opportunity to relax
- Escape from traffic, noise, bitumen
- Beauty
- Visible seasonal changes
- Bird calls/animal habitat
- Safe for children to ride bikes
- Adequate variety of passive recreation options for all ages (see details below)
- Significant trees - Elms, Palms
- Bandstand (as a play area)
- Flower gardens at Hoddle Street end (but don't want more)
- Paths - patterns, edging and leafy arches
- Gold Street playground
- Wattle trees acting as buffer (& pleasant display of blossoms) on Hoddle Street.
- As a meeting place
- Barbeques
- Drinking fountains
- Seats
- Rubbish bins
- Lighting - but should be redesigned
- Lawns
- Semi circle of Elms
- Cannon - needs explanation
- Bluestone entries to gardens - stone from 26 North Terrace (now demolished)
- General cleanliness
- Toilet block (a necessity)
- Health Centre
- Views and vistas along paths
- Architectural character of surrounding residential area

What are the problems with the Gardens?

Negative Qualities of Gardens

- Barbeques and in particular, cars driving into gardens to access picnic areas
- Bad lighting, especially in SE corner - comment that issue of gardens use at night should be further discussed. Many people asserted that there was little or no demand for night-time use due to general perception of parks being unsafe after dark
- Health centre - developed into argument that Maternal & Child Health Centre was not appropriate in park any more (see further comments)
- Toilet block - problems with loitering
- Litter - more bins required in better locations
- Lack of trees on South Terrace - need to resume circle of trees
- No path along South Terrace - need to resume circle of trees
- Lack of specialist advice on trees (as evident in loss of Holm Oak recently)
- Drainage in Gold St & South Tce is bad
- Large dogs off leash are a threat to young children & adults
- Dog faeces

- Playground equipment is suited to younger children not older (eg. see-saws) - but no need for more equipment
- Object to Maternal & Child Health Centre being used as a casual child care centre by users of the leisure centre (see Health Centre comments).

Recreational/Leisure activities in the Gardens

There was concern from several participants that the word Recreation implied organised activities rather than the more leisurely nature of current use. It was agreed that the following activities occur within the Gardens:

- Local Primary School games/carnivals
- Picnics
- Walking
- Exercising
- Informal Ball Games
- Sitting and reading
- Spending time away from 'rat race'
- Walking the dog
- Informal dog training
- Walking to school/transport/home
- Meeting people/neighbours
- Tai Chi/Yoga
- Carols in the park
- Meditating
- Cycling
- Kite flying
- Play equipment

Discussion

Discussion during the workshop expanded on a number of different points including:

Maternal and Child Health Centre

The workshop raised several different issues relating to the Centre ranging from simple objection to incursion of fencing on the traditional parkland/open space, to fears regarding the change in the future use of the building from a specific health centre to a facility for more general community or child care use. In an aesthetic and heritage sense, a majority of workshop participants would rather the centre was removed. However, there was strong opposition to this from a single representative of users of the Centre.

A clear division exists the community as to the appropriateness of a Maternal and Child Health Centre in the open space reserve. While there is evidently a demand for the service, (356 families attend annually), there is a perception amongst locals that the centre services people from outside the immediate neighbourhood, and therefore the venue should be located elsewhere. Further research is required to verify this assumption and ascertain the locational preferences of Centre users.

During the workshop, a formal objection to the proposed temporary and permanent fences was made and a motion passed demanding that the Council's approval (dated July 1992) be rescinded. Copies of the motion have been formally lodged with Council by Marion Miller.

Paths

The layout of paths was appreciated as having historical importance. There was support for the development of a path under the circle of Elms and also along the South Tce boundary for practical as and aesthetic reasons.

Trees

It was generally felt that further attention to the management of trees in the park was required. Generally people recognised the historical and aesthetic importance of the established exotic species, and there were mixed responses to the later plantings of indigenous species. There was a preference for the reinstatement of the remaining half circle of Elms. Plantings at the South Terrace side were also favoured.

Toilet Block

The toilet block was recognised as a necessity after initial criticism. The main problems were related to its attraction for 'undesirable persons' involved in drug or sexual activity, and also general litter pollution in the vicinity.

Play Equipment

The playground equipment had both positive and negative criticisms regarding its aesthetic qualities. There were additional comments about the lack of facilities for older children.

Heritage character

It was felt by the majority that a 'sense of history' about the gardens was of paramount importance. It was then debated as to what historical aspects were most important. There was general agreement that features such as the basalt entries were too recent and altered to be of primary importance while the plantings were very valuable. The discussion did not clarify this notion of heritage priorities further.

Safety and Lighting

There were different opinions as to the adequacy of lighting in the park at night. Some people maintained that there was no need to make further provision as the Gardens (and parks generally) were unsafe after dark. Others argued that more lighting in the warmer months would be appropriate for picnickers.

Access

Most of the discussion had reflected the very localised use of the park but it was mentioned that it is important to keep the park open and accessible to all and that the Gardens had significance for a broader user group.

Comments on future management practices

Before the closing of the workshop, a number of issues were raised by Richard Aitken in relation to future management of historically important features within the Gardens.

Firstly, planting was raised as a conservation issue. Alternative options of replanting in sections or as individual trees died were presented. In answer, a participant pointed out that the tradition of planting on a tree-by-tree basis was the historical approach, however in respect to distinct plantings, such as the circle of Elms, there was an apparent historical intention which could justify a more coordinated approach by today's landscape managers.

The reinstatement of features partially or completely removed was another issue. This had mixed responses. (See notes on Heritage Character above.) The question of 'What is traditional character?' was once again raised and it was recognised that no clear idea of the group's priorities had been resolved. A vote was taken on the general question of whether or not reinstatement of earlier features (such as the fence or pergola entries) was appropriate. The result was 8 against: 4 in favour with the remainder abstaining.

Finally, it was generally agreed that there should be no further built developments in the Gardens, as the Victorian/Edwardian landscape was an important part of the Gardens' current identity, influencing the relatively passive use of this rare open space.

Summary

As a conclusion to the workshop discussion, the following issues were restated as the most important aspects of the park:

- History
- Park qualities of fresh air and relaxed atmosphere
- Trees - accessible for all
- Local significance and function
- The traditional character (which requires definition) should not be compromised. Workshop participants wish to be involved in definition of heritage aspects and in related management policies

Conclusion

Most of the aspects mentioned in discussion were either practical or physical in nature and do not qualify the less tangible aspects of meaning associated with place. Current uses and features of the Gardens were discussed in terms of positive and negative attitudes but little was achieved in establishing priorities. Hence, from this summary, there is limited scope for interpreting the finer details of form and character which contribute to the unique experience of Darling Gardens in comparison with similar places.

Due to the over-riding concern amongst participants over the future of the Maternal and Child Health Centre, some of the objectives of the workshop were not achieved. (A significant proportion of time was spent clarifying issues about the boundary changes and proposed partial fencing of the Centre.) The aim of defining the more subtle aspects of social use and meaning was made possible with the use of a compilation of residents' statements provided by members of the Darling Gardens Group Inc. subsequent to the workshop.

Information from the workshop, the survey and the residents' statements has been used to describe the local community's uses and values associated with the Gardens in chapter three of the Darling Gardens Conservation Analysis Report. This information has then informed the social significance component of the statement of cultural significance for the Darling Gardens.

APPENDIX 4: REPORT OF QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

Introduction

The views of the local community and users of Darling Gardens were sought by means of a questionnaire. This part of the public consultation was intended to supplement demographic information from Council sources and provide a basis for a more detailed analysis of the perceived needs and current uses of Darling Gardens

Aims

This qualitative survey was aimed at collecting information from the broadest possible group of visitors to the Gardens, including those who did not reside in the immediate vicinity.

The questions were designed to explore three main aspects:

1. To identify the different user groups by age and proximity to the Gardens;
2. To describe how the Gardens are currently used;
3. Most importantly, to examine aspects of the form and character of the Gardens which people consider most important.

The responses were analysed and summarised under four headings - community profile, uses values, and suggested improvements. (See analysis below)

Content

The first questions related to people's general use of parks and Gardens. The initial question asked about regularity of use, and the second about general activities and values. These were intended to provide comparisons useful for establishing how Darling Gardens might function differently from other Gardens.

The third question was aimed at exploring what open space alternatives which were comparable to Darling Gardens for this community of users.

The following question asked about regularity of visits to the Gardens followed by a question about preventative factors designed to explore issues of accessibility.

A question about use and activities was located above a basic map of the park to allow respondents to describe their time spent in the Gardens.

Two questions asked people directly what they valued in terms of negative and positive qualities and possible changes.

The most important question was asked on the reverse side of the form and inquired as to what individuals thought was special about Darling Gardens and was intended to encourage people to think more deeply about their attachment to the place.

The Questionnaire was finalised with a brief section to provide basic information about approximate age, ethnicity, proximity of residence, for the purposes of future reference, and comparison with other secondary data.

Method

Questionnaires were designed in a format to allow easy letterbox distribution. 1800 copies were distributed to residences in the catchment area described in Chapter Three of the Conservation Analysis Report. Extra piles of questionnaires were left at Carringbush Library, the Maternal and Child Health Centre in the Gardens, The Clifton Hill Leisure Centre, at five Queens Parade commercial premises and milk bars throughout the catchment area.

Replies could be returned via mail or in person to the Planning Department at the City offices, or to the Maternal and Child Health Centre. The survey form also included an invitation to the public workshop.

Analysis

Responses were received from 104 people representing 147 individuals (forms were designed to account for families/companions).

Community Profile

A majority of responses (56%) received were from individuals whose main language was English and whose age ranged between 30 and 50. This would reflect the population trends illustrated in the Census data of 1986. Of the total responses, 20% were from young adults approximately 25 years of age, 15% from the 50+ age group and 9% from the under 14 year old group.

Use

Most people mentioned walking as a major pastime with a 62% response. Walking the dog was considered to be a separate response category (in this analysis) and was often mentioned separately, with 21% using the Gardens as a dog exercising venue.

Sitting and reading or relaxing was also frequently mentioned (45%) and was clearly recognised as an activity in its own right. Meditating and supervising children and dogs were associated activities. Socialising with neighbours also appeared to be very important.

Several people mentioned that a route through the Gardens were part of their daily journey to work/school/leisure centre(15%).

A similar percentage of respondents quoted cycling, kite-flying, ball games and active sports as their activities in the Gardens(12%). These were usually younger persons and it appears that these activities are more sporadic in nature, while the adult exercise routines such as jogging, power-walking and Tai Chi were regular morning and afternoon events.

An elaborated response from the Principal of Gold Street Primary School described that group's use of the open space in the park for organised sports activities, mainly in the drier months of the year.

Overall, it would appear from these responses that most Darling Gardens users are relatively passive in their activities, preferring contemplative and socially interactive activities to organised, more active ones.

Values

The values which emerged from the survey responses seemed to be connected to the uses and meanings of parks generally, with only relatively few responses addressing the peculiarities of Darling Gardens. (This compares with the workshop response which presented a high awareness of the 'heritage character' of the Gardens, valuing its distinctive aesthetic and historical attributes.)

Specific mention was made by many people of the rarity value of the Gardens, with the word 'oasis' often used (22%) to describe the appreciation of green, unpolluted open spaces. One respondent mentioned that the Gardens were a major reason for buying a house in the area, while several others highlighted the lack of garden space in local residences.

Almost half the respondents (46%) visit only Darling Gardens or one other besides. The alternative was most often Botanic Gardens (22%), Edinburgh Gardens (21%) or the Merri Creek (20%) with Yarra Bend, Fairfield and Fitzroy Gardens being the other less frequented alternatives.

Space was the most frequently mentioned quality of the Gardens which people thought was important and should be retained. There were several mentions of its rarity, a few in the context of there being no back yards in local residences.

Trees were highly valued with many references to shady avenues of arches and general beauty of the established species, especially during a change of season. There were a small number of requests for more native trees. There were also several requests for expert tree care, with a few reminders of the loss of the Holm Oak recently. There were also requests for completion of the circle of Elms.

Paths were seen as both aesthetically pleasing and of utility value by a significant proportion of people (12%). Two people requested additional paths along South Tce as this area is inadequately drained in wet seasons. There were several requests for a path underneath a completed circle of Elms. The entries to the diagonal paths were ignored overall, with only two mentions, one in favour and one against retention.

Suggested improvements

There were a number of views on appropriate changes to features of the Gardens which have been summarised in the list below:

- Completion of circular Elm plantings
- Construction of a path beneath Elm circle
- More bins, in more strategic locations throughout the park
- Improved drainage on southern side of the Gardens
- Attention to drinking fountains and in particular use by dogs
- Improved flower beds (how?)
- Policing or closing of the toilet block after dark.

APPENDIX 5: RESPONSES TO THE DISPLAY AND DRAFT REPORT

Responses from interested members of the public to the Darling Gardens Conservation Analysis Draft Report were sought by means of a display, held over 5 weeks in two locations.

CONTENT AND METHOD

The display presented a brief explanation of the purpose and scope of the study and included illustrations of some of the historical material included in the report. The statement of cultural significance was mounted as part of the exhibition while those who were interested in analysing the study more closely were advised that the full Draft Report was also available.

The public were invited to enter written responses in a book located near the display. This method was chosen in preference to the separate response sheet format because of the immediacy of the process which also encourages people to respond when they see comments of others.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

The display was mounted for public viewing on the following dates at two separate locations:

3 - 23 May, at Carringbush Library, Stanton Street, Collingwood;

24 May - 7 June at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 160 Gold Street, Clifton Hill. (The duration of this display, originally scheduled to conclude on 31 May, was extended by one week at the request of members of the Darling Gardens Group as compensation for the limited opening hours at this site.)

Notification of the venue and dates of the display were advertised in the local newspapers, The Melbourne Times and The Melbourne Leader, and also by posters located in the Darling Gardens, at the Collingwood Planning Department and the Carringbush Library.

The full copy of the Draft Report was available, (for in-house viewing only), at the front desk of the Carringbush Library for the entire period of the display. Copies were also sent to members of the Darling Gardens Group by the City of Collingwood in recognition of their special interest in the details of the Draft.

RESPONSES

There were 14 written responses entered into the book located with the display and 3 letters were received by the Planning Department. In addition, three very detailed submissions were received from members of the Darling Gardens Group. These responses reflect varying degrees of concern about the Gardens and the implications of the Conservation Analysis on the future management policies for the Gardens.

Book Entries

Comments written in the book covered a range of issues, many of these reinforcing the ideas of the social, aesthetic and historical importance of the Gardens previously raised in the survey and workshop. An interesting characteristic of many responses

was that they directly addressed the issue of heritage value versus desired use. For example, four entries criticised the flower beds on the grounds that they were 'out of character' and labour intensive.

The controversial issue of the Maternal and Child Health Centre fence also highlighted this question of the priority of historically important elements of the landscape over current social uses. There were five statements that supported fencing, mostly from mothers who felt that the area was unsafe for children without this provision. In opposition to this, there were three responses which objected to the fencing on the grounds that it was not in keeping with the historical intention of the Gardens as public open space, that the building was inconveniently located in relation to parking, and that it set an undesirable precedent, servicing a special interest group rather than the general public.

Six replies explicitly agreed with the statement of cultural significance. There was frequent mention of the importance of continuity of use and the enhancement of the community focus of the park, especially in regard to activities such as arts festivals, bandstand music and enhancing family use of the park through the provision of more barbeques and equipment.

Letters

More detailed letters outlined several points of concern over the current use of the Centre and other uses of the park area.

One respondent saw the Draft Report as ignoring the important issue of the planned changes to the use of the Temporary Reserve, stating that the negative aspects of the Maternal and Child Health Centre and its temporary Reserve have been ignored and that the identification of the significance of the Gardens to Centre users is "special pleading". The writer argues that the fencing would not increase safety for unsupervised children and that the building as a whole spoils the views and vistas in the Gardens. The writer states a case for the restoration of open space in the Darling Gardens.

Another letter response objected to an item in the Workshop Report. The writer maintains the point 2 under 'Negative qualities of the Gardens' is not a quote and inaccurately represents participants' views. The writer stresses that many users of the Gardens are aware of the importance of the Gardens to visitors who do not reside in the vicinity and that the point made in the workshop was in relation to the driving of cars into the park, not the use of the park by 'outsiders'.

A third letter was also in opposition to the location and fencing of the Maternal and Child Health centre, making recommendations regarding fencing design if it were erected and suggesting the restriction of vehicles in the park.

Detailed Submissions

The three detailed submissions raised some general criticisms of the Draft Report while focussing on detailed queries about the research and the methods of comparison. Conclusions about the relative significance of individual aspects of the analysis seemed to be a major concern, with two respondents suggesting that further work be done on the study. The content of these submissions is very detailed and will be incorporated in a thorough review of the Draft.

Each of the three submissions raised questions regarding aspects of historical and social significance. Some of the main points have been summarised below.

Historical Significance

Many of the queries about the history of physical features within the park concerned the need for more comparison with other similar parks and Gardens to assess the significance of each item.

A criticism of the workshop was that it did not allow participants to make comparisons with other places.

There were several questions relating to heritage recommendations, (that is to the second stage of this report) for example, regarding the appropriateness of reinstatement of the rockery and the character of the current flower beds.

One respondent was concerned about the lack of clarity in explanation of how certain events have resulted in parts of the Gardens being considered more significant than others. It was argued that the assessment of the comparative importance of the each aspect of the Gardens could only be made after each article was given equal weighting in research. Another writer was of the similar view that internal comparisons were as useful as external comparisons in gaining an understanding of the relative significance of individual items.

One submission attached several appendices to supplement points of historical relevance.

Social Significance

There were a number of anecdotal additions suggested by one respondent to elaborate on the description of the importance of the Gardens to the local community. For example, there was an observation that views from the Gardens were reminiscent of places in other cities to one local resident.

One issue which reflected views expressed in other responses was the need to clarify the importance of the Gardens to users of the Centre. It was pointed out that the importance of the Gardens to users of the centre and the importance of the centre to those users were two separate issues which should not be confused. Any connection between the Gardens and the Centre was considered to be problematic. For example, it was disputed that the placement of the play equipment linked the function of the Centre with other uses of the Gardens.

An addition to the statement of social significance was suggested, relating to the history of struggle over the Gardens and the associated attachment felt by residents.

Other recommendations involved the inclusion of the study brief as an appendix and the recommendation that further public exhibition and opportunity for comment be carried out after the policies and recommendations are completed.

CONCLUSIONS

It is evident that there is considerable interest and concern felt by local residents about the future maintenance of Darling Gardens. The complex question of the priority of heritage conservation over the desire to enhance current leisure and recreation uses of the Gardens appears to be well appreciated by the majority of respondents to the display and Draft Report.

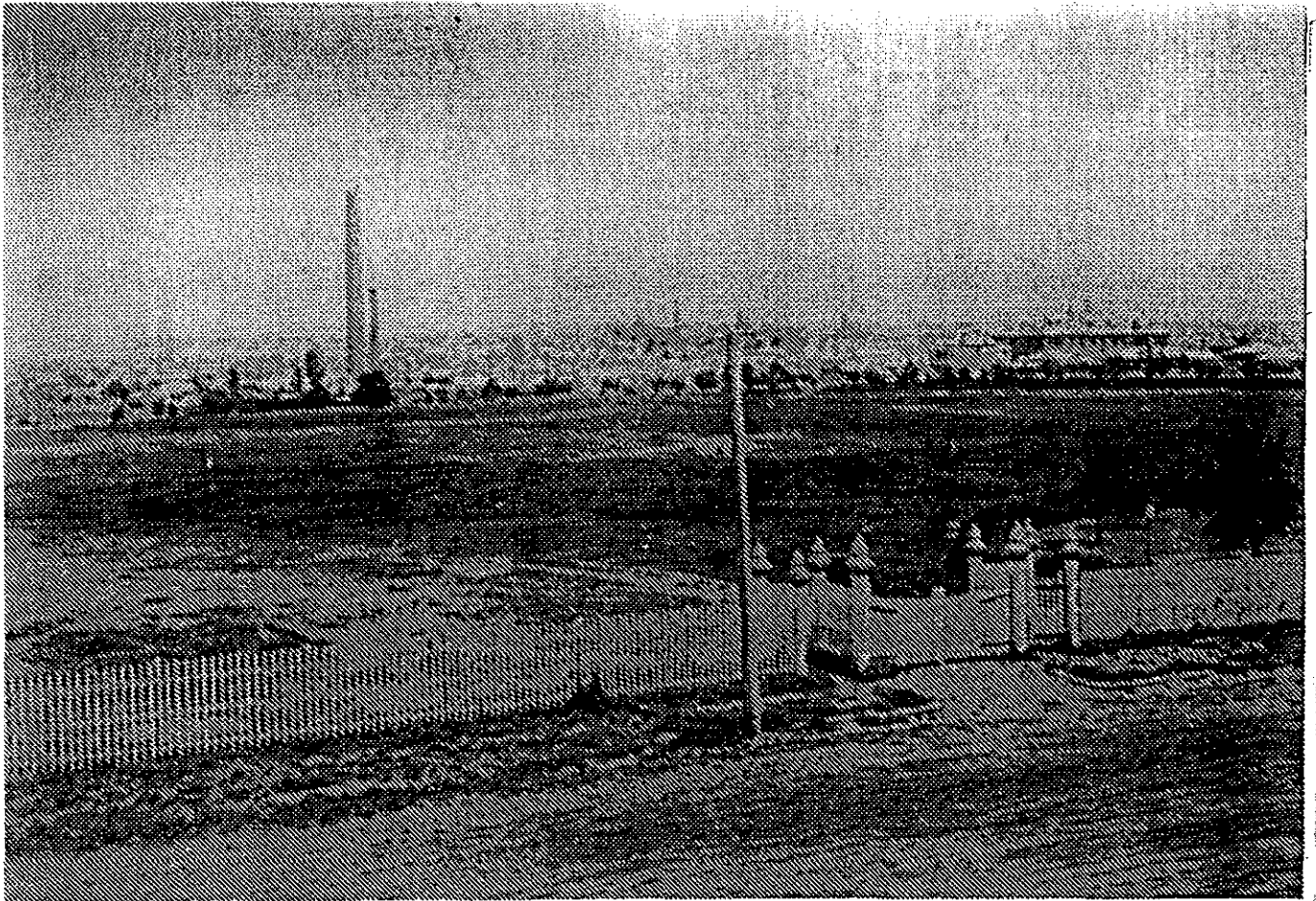
The three very detailed submission contain queries regarding specific points of historical research. These points will be analysed and incorporated in a thorough

review of the Draft Report. Other issues regarding the approach to the assessment of cultural significance have been summarised above.

The letters demonstrate some of the strong views held by residents regarding the possible future use of the Maternal and Child Health Centre, and an awareness of the role of local activists as protectors of the heritage of the Gardens, particularly with respect to its continued use as public open space accessible to all.

The responses in the book are valuable as evidence of the argument for equal weighting being given to *current social uses in comparison to heritage conservation objectives*. Previous methods of consultation in this study have not stressed this point and have tended to focus on a describing uses, activities and aesthetic preferences.

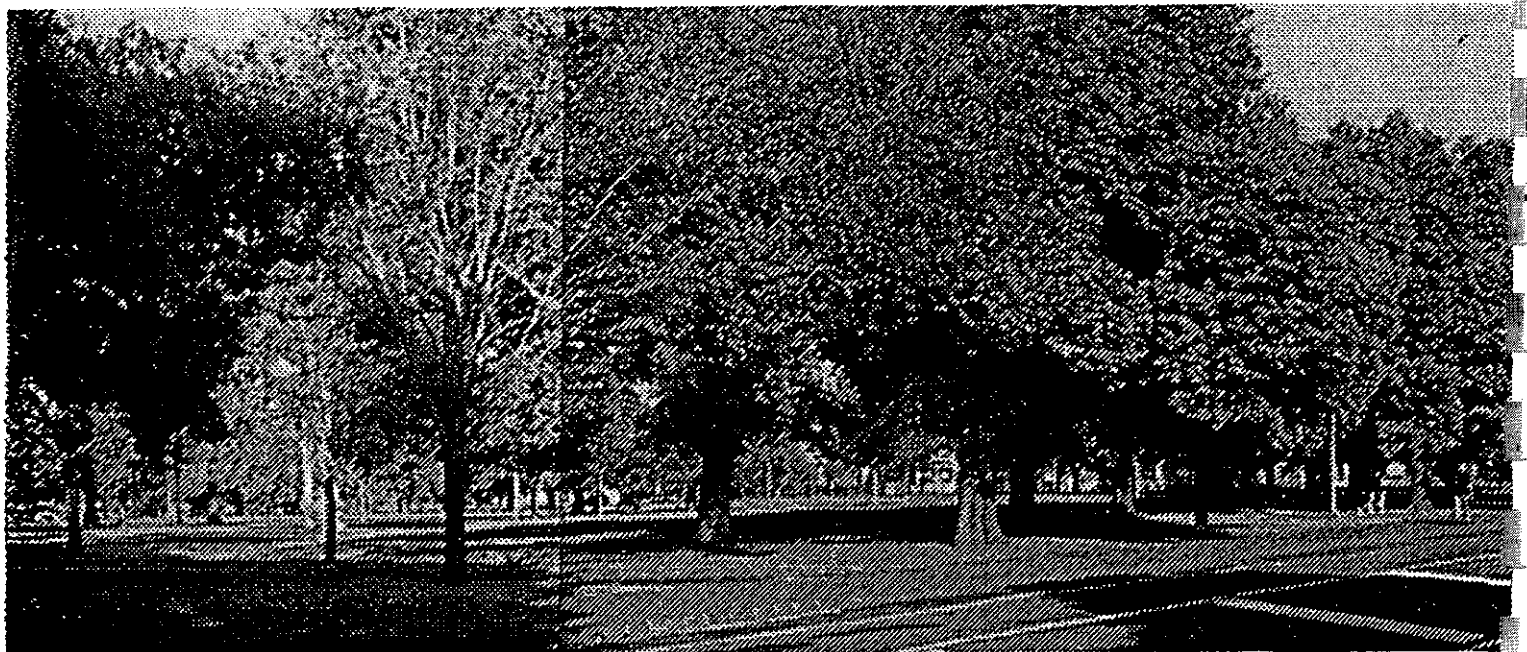
APPENDIX SIX: DOSSIER OF EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLANS



Photograph 1

Darling Gardens, c.1886, looking south-west from North Terrace
(Langridge Album, Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993





Photograph 2

Group of teachers and students in Darling Gardens, c.1876-94
(Clifton Hill Primary School, courtesy Tina Meyer)

View from presumed location, April 1993

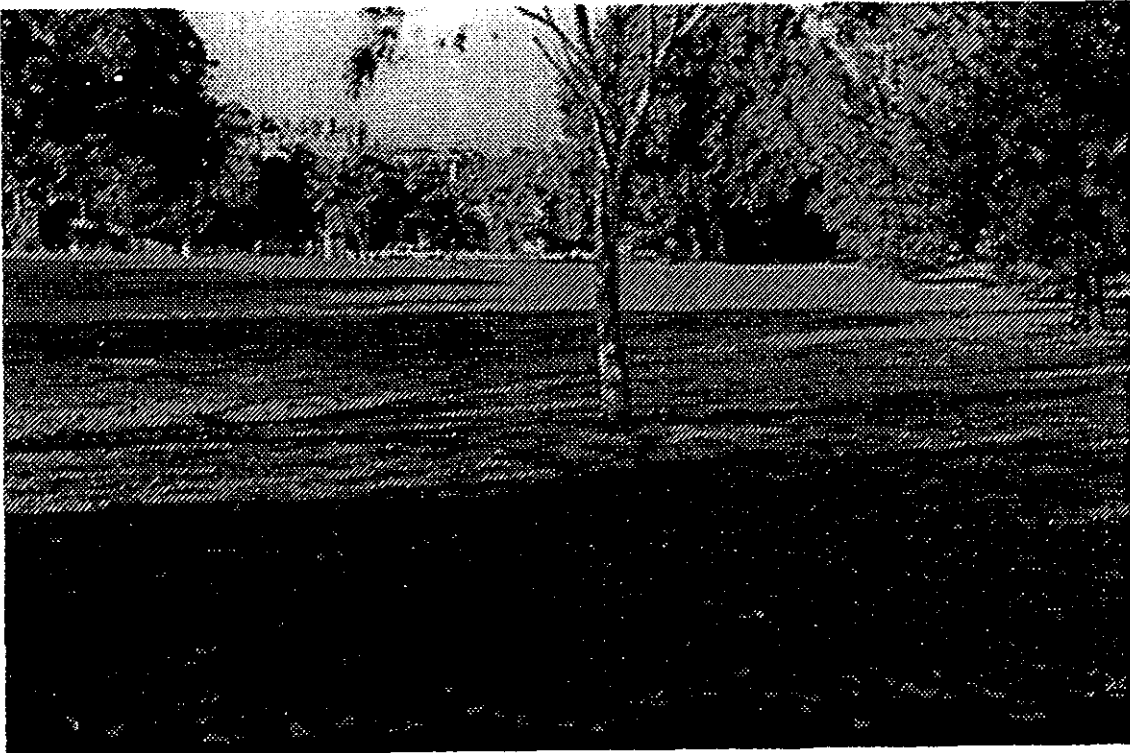


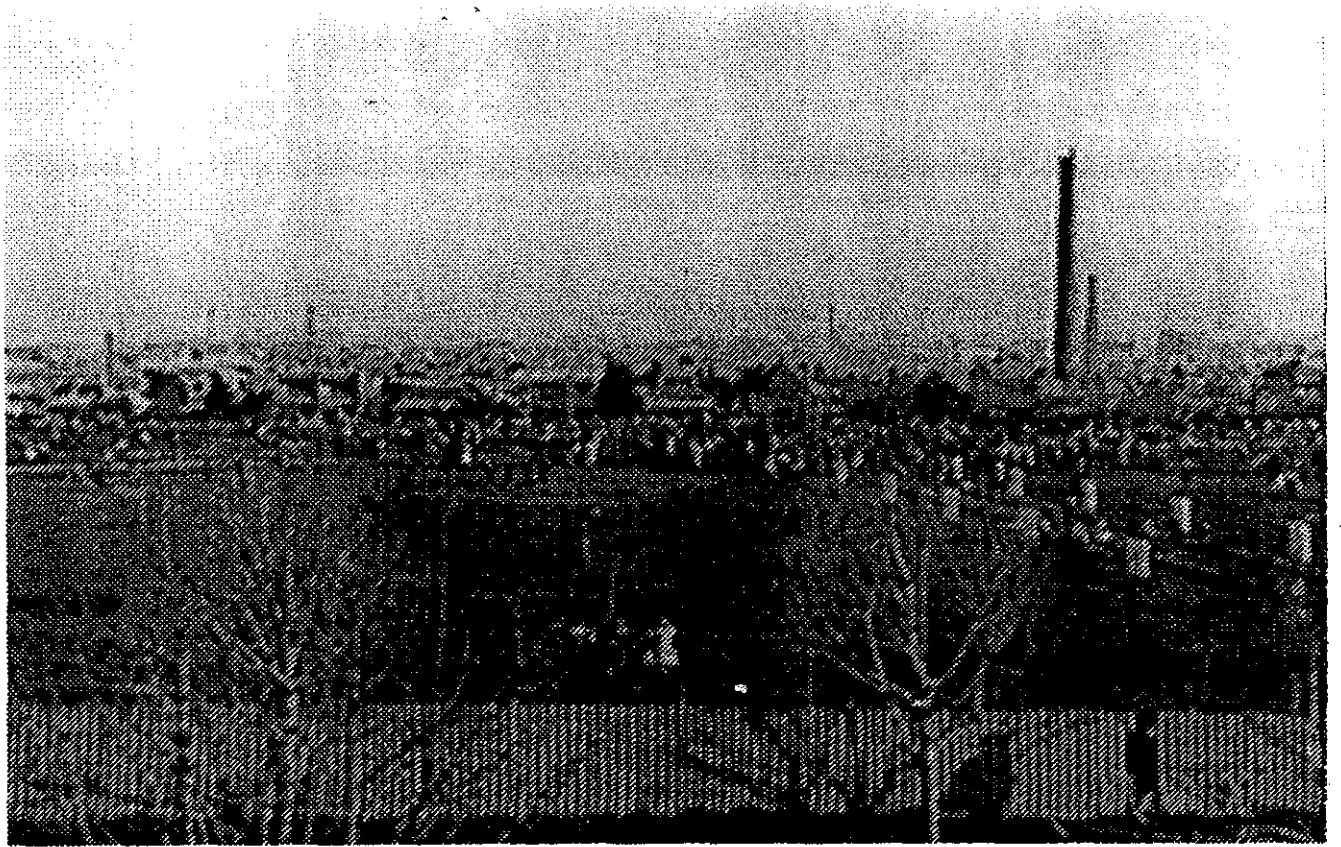


Photograph 3

Arbor Day in Darling Gardens, 1907, looking south from the bandstand
(Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993

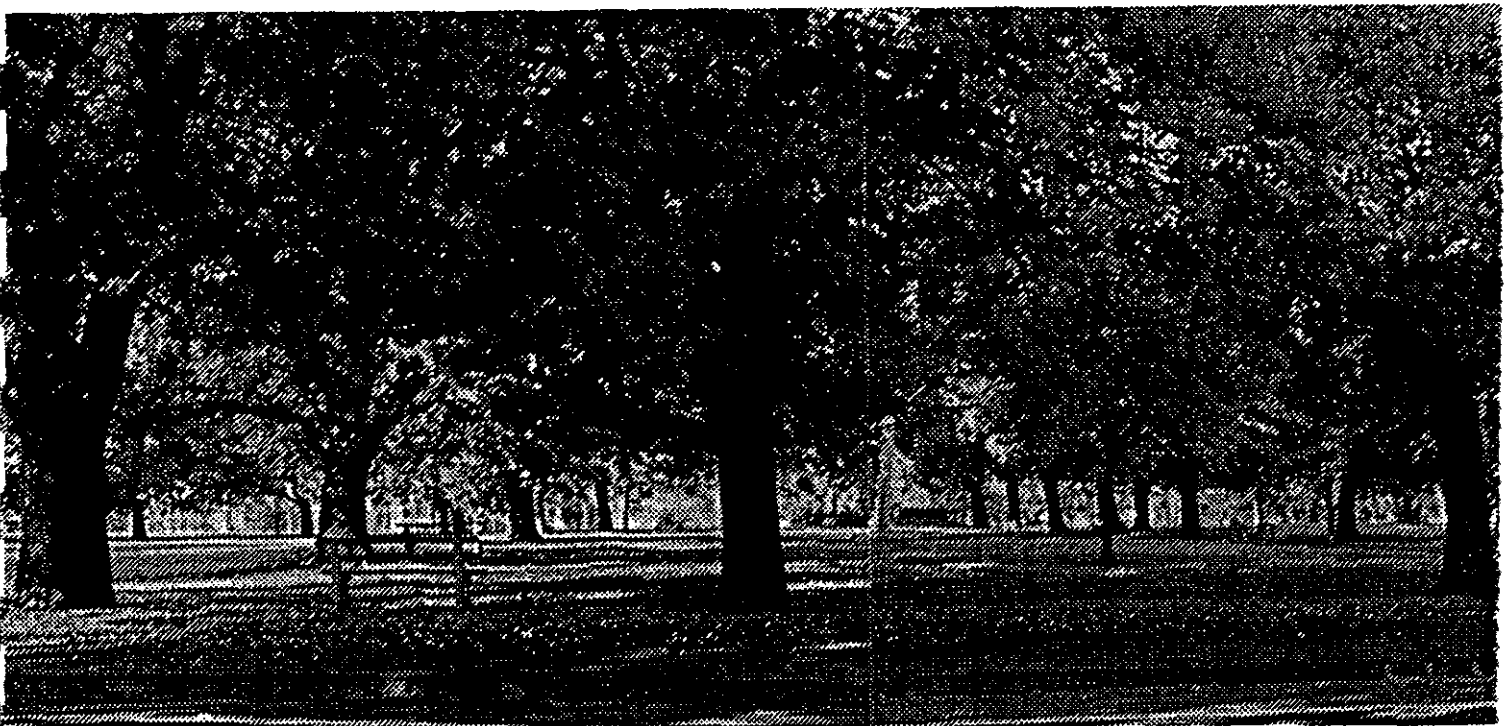




Photograph 4

Arbor Day in Darling Gardens, 1907, looking south from North Terrace
(Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993





Photograph 5

Darling Gardens, c.1910-20, looking north-west from corner of Hoddle St and South Terrace
(Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993





Photograph 6

Darling Gardens, c.1910-20, south-west corner looking to South Terrace
(Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993



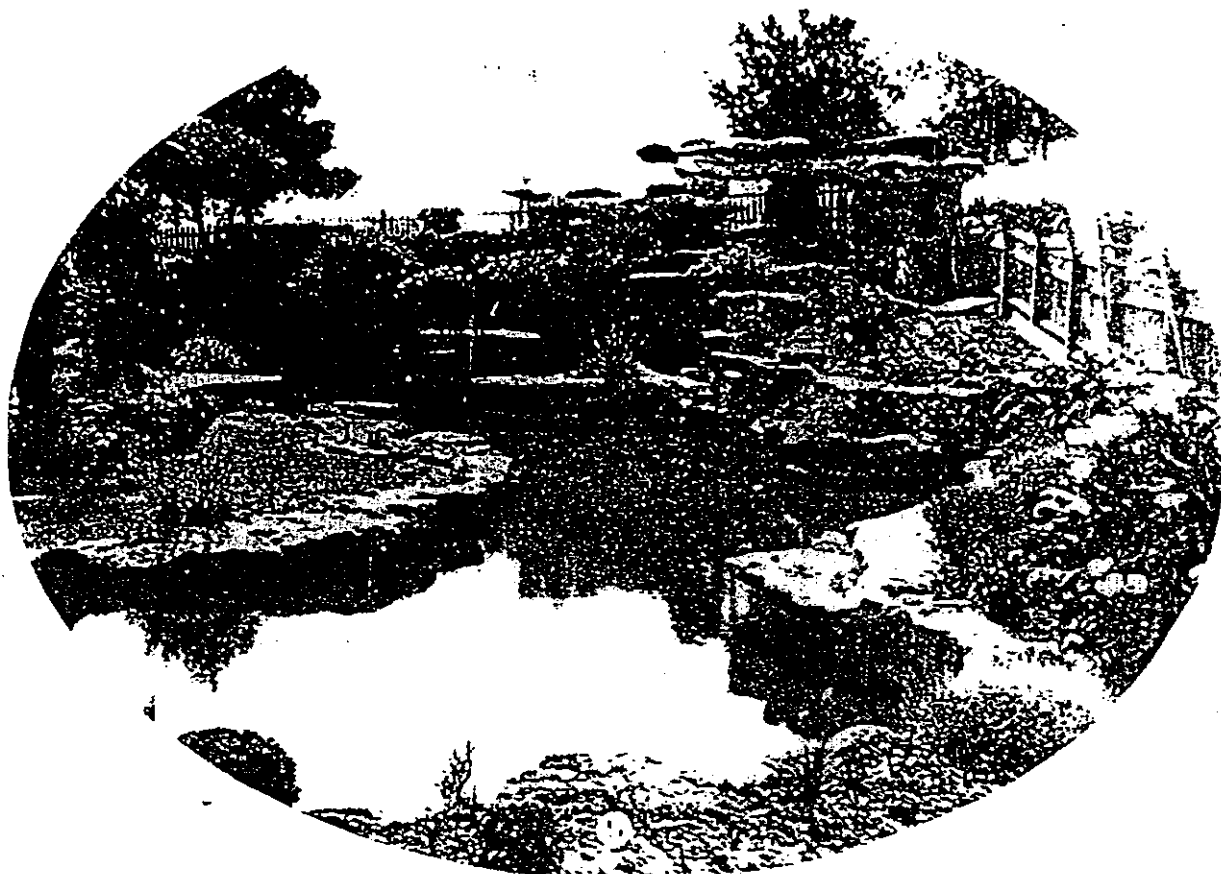


Photograph 7

Darling Gardens, c.1910-20, south-west corner looking west
(Carringbush Library)

Similar view, April 1993

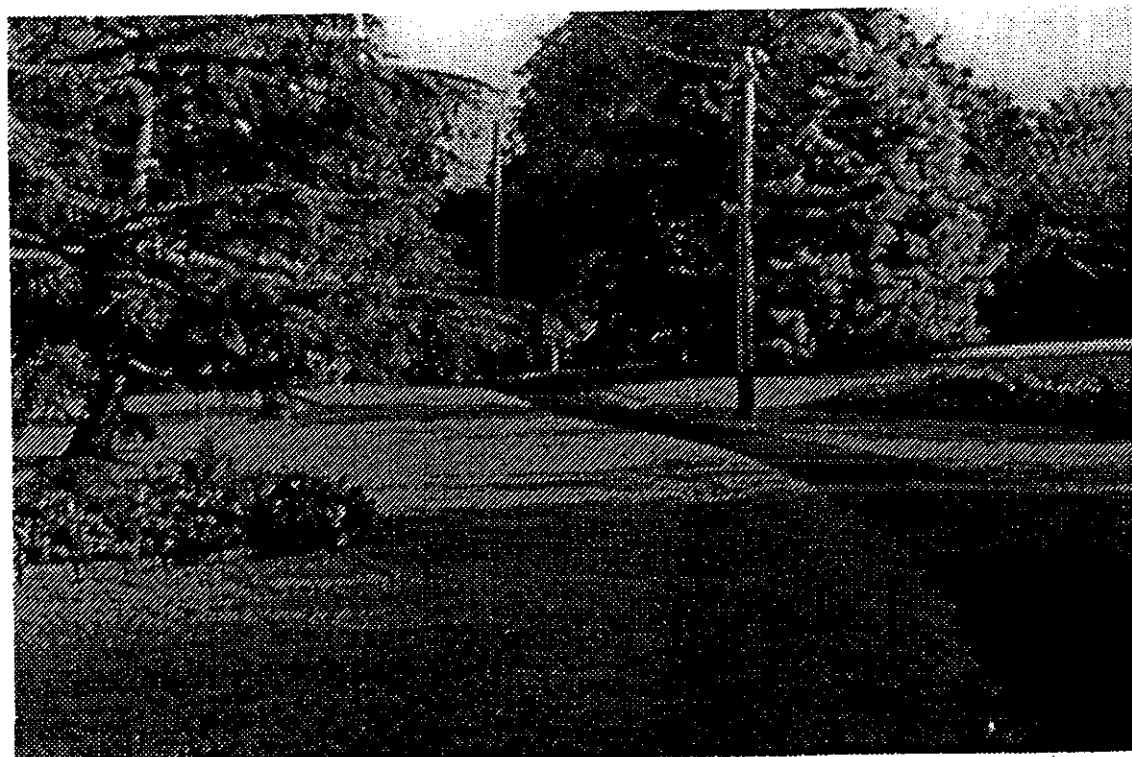




Photograph 8

Darling Gardens, 1913, south-west corner showing the rockery and pond
(Weekly Times, 18 October 1913, p.28, La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria,
courtesy Tina Meyer)

Similar view, April 1993



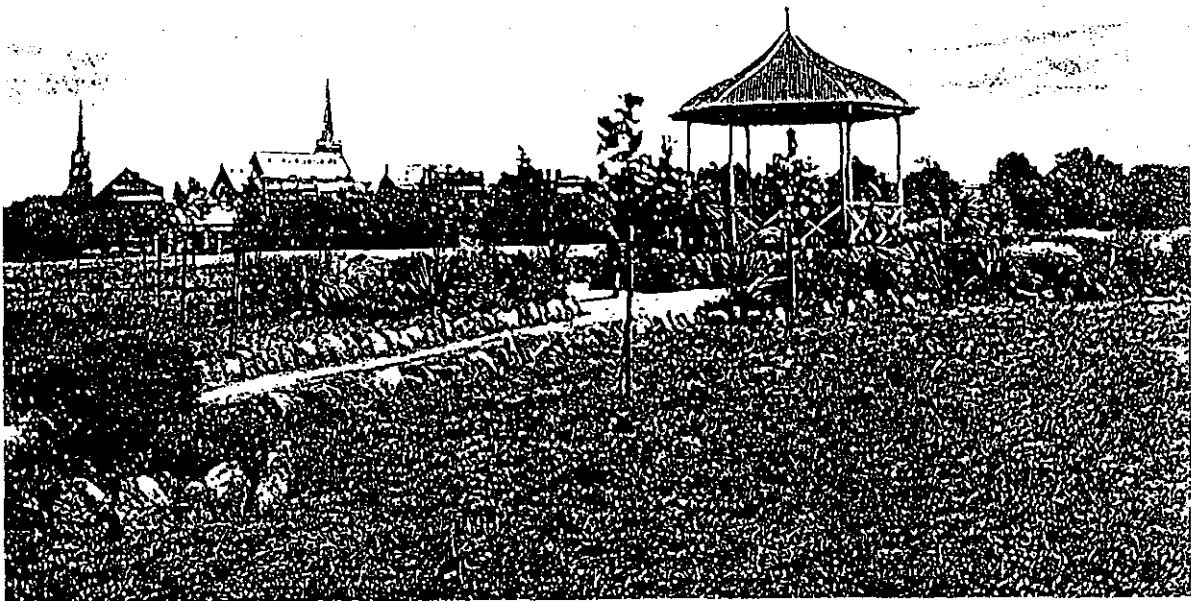


Photograph 9

Darling Gardens, c.1910-20, looking south-east to bandstand
(City of Collingwood)

Similar view, April 1993



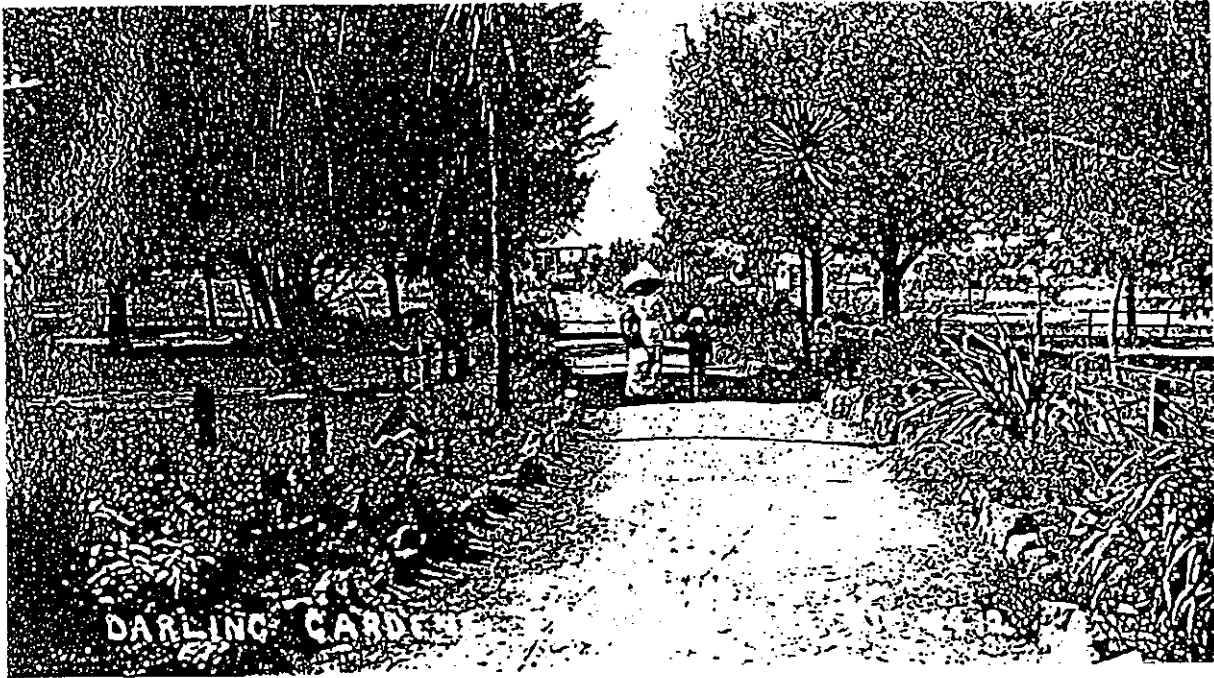


Photograph 10

Darling Gardens, c.1910, looking west
(La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria, courtesy Tina Meyer)

Similar view, April 1993



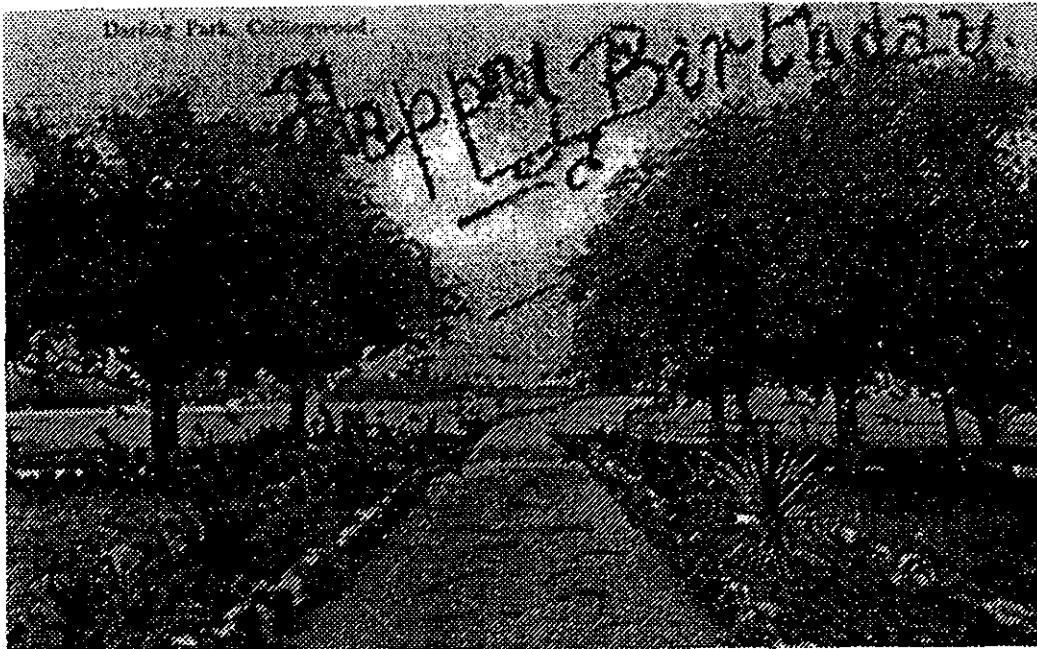


Photograph 11

Darling Gardens, c.1906-15, looking to bandstand
(La Tobe Collection, State Library of Victoria, courtesy Tina Meyer)

View from presumed location, April 1993



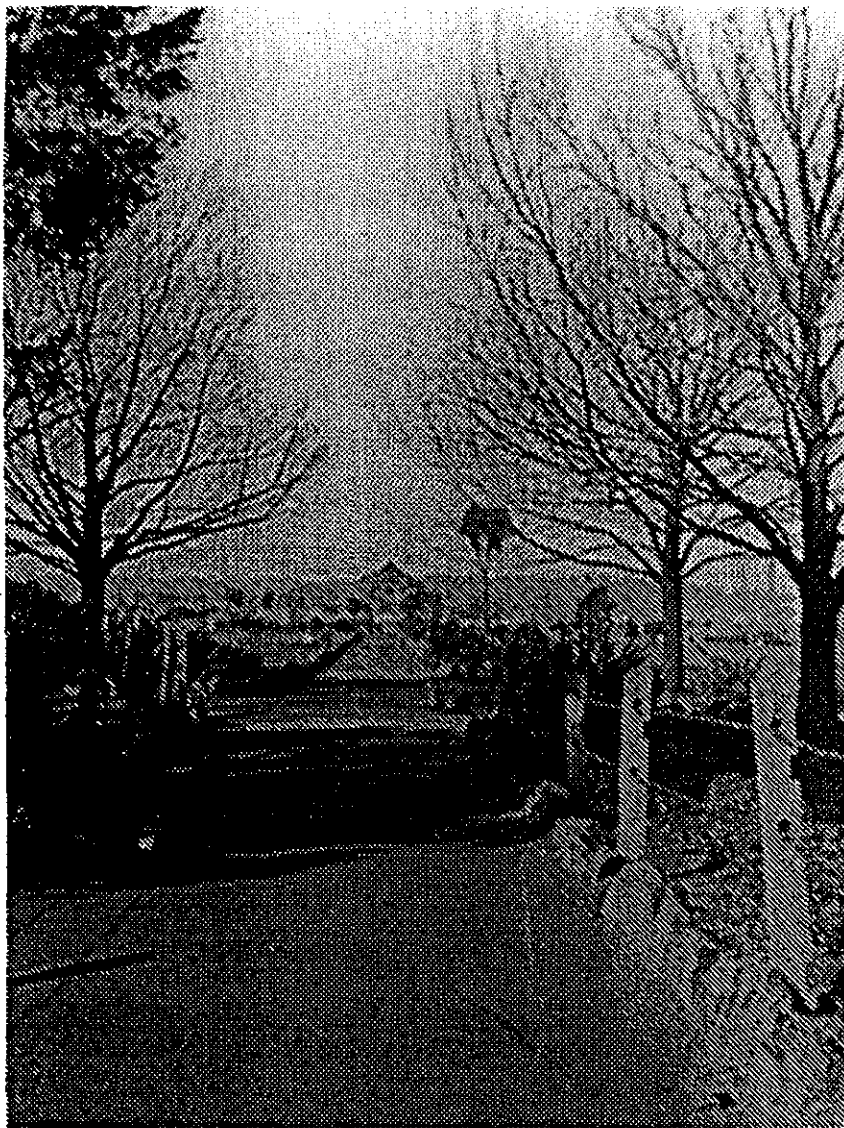


Photograph 12

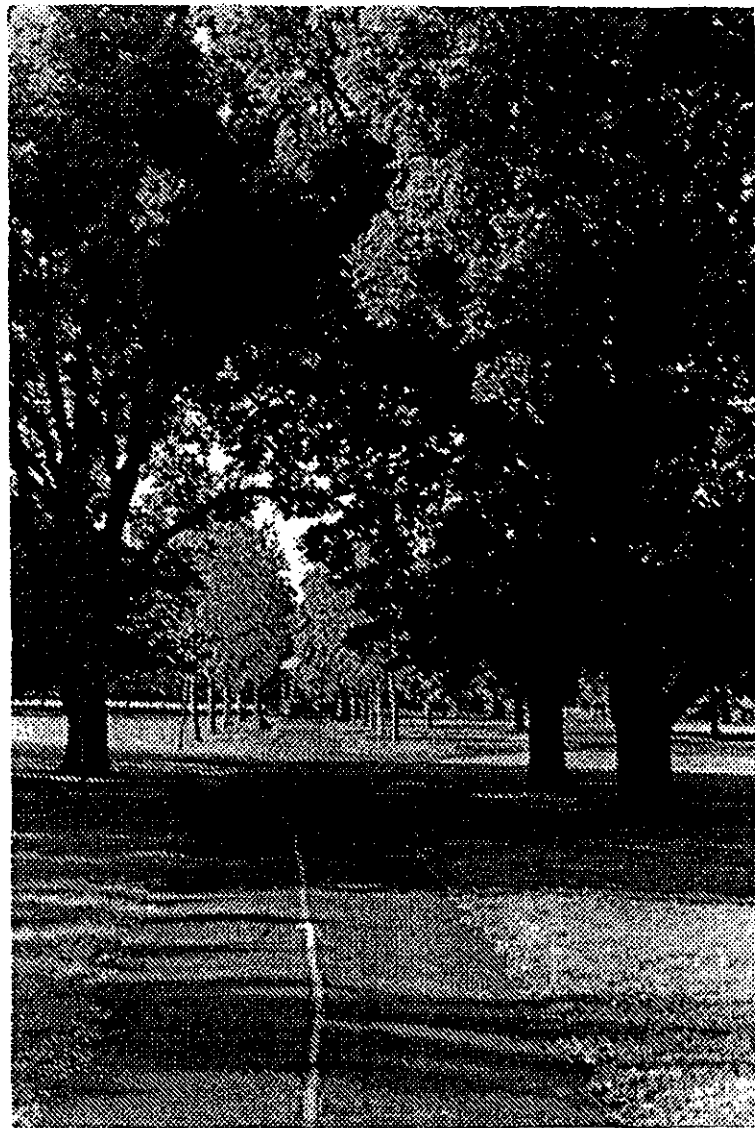
Darling Gardens, c.1906, looking to bandstand
(Richard Aitken collection)

View from presumed location, April 1993

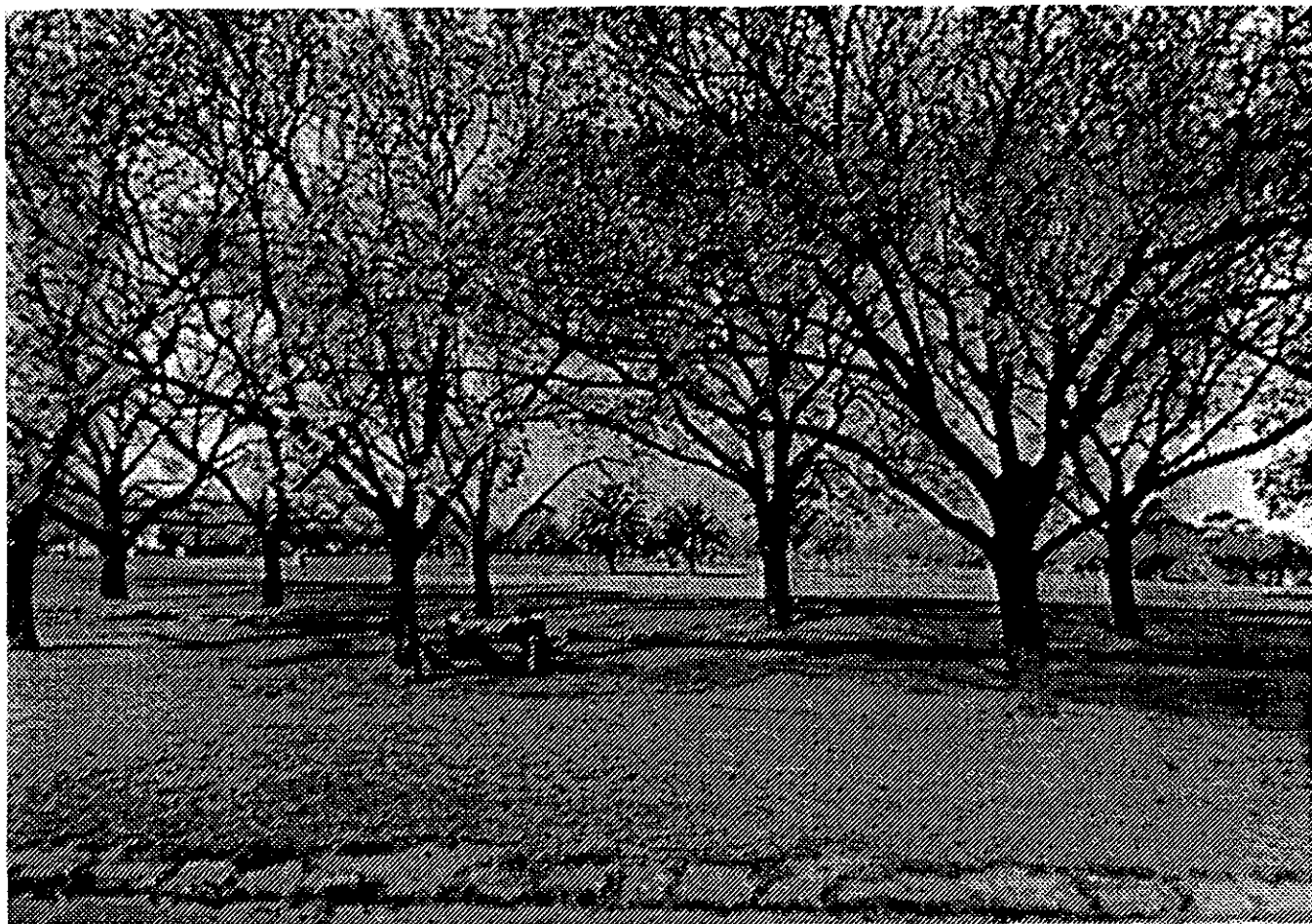




Photograph 13: Darling Gardens, c.1906-15,
looking south-east (Carringbush Library)



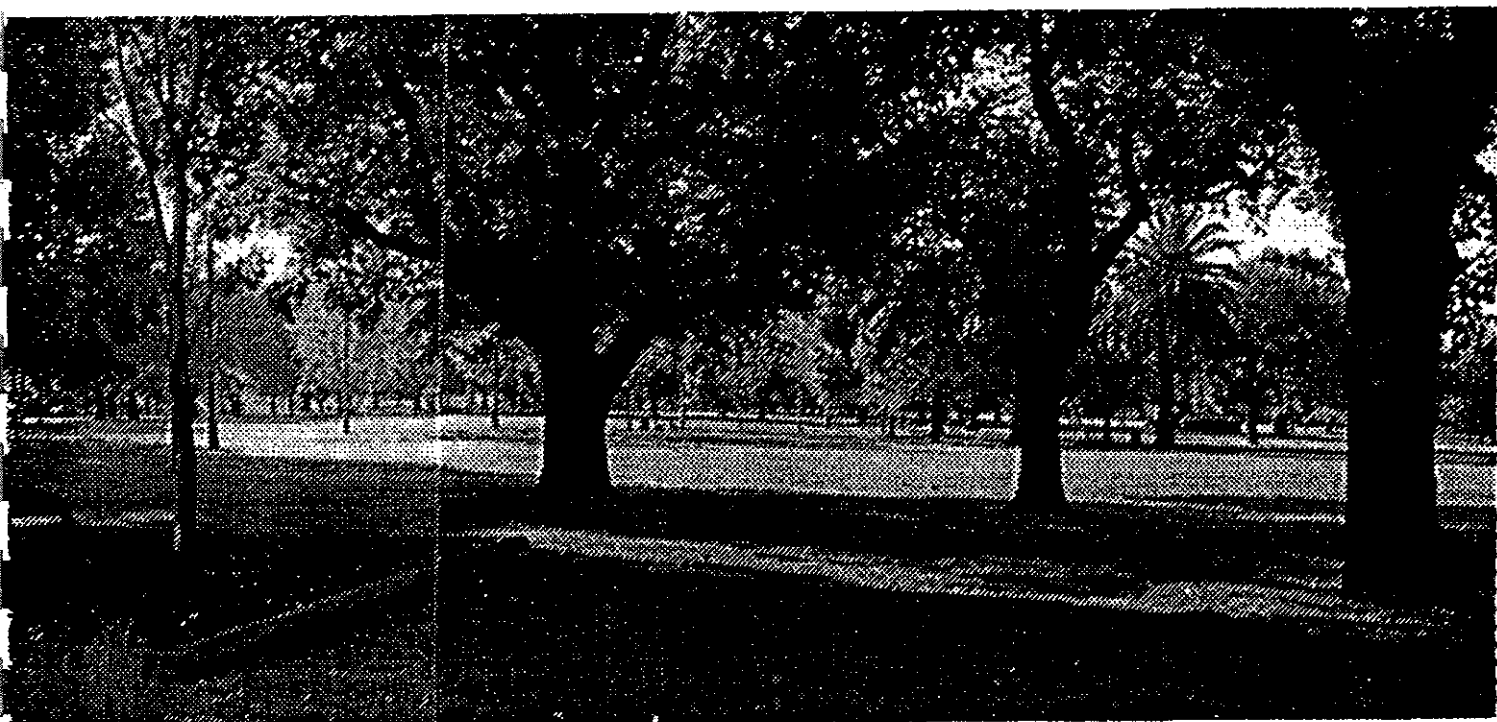
Similar view, April 1993



Photograph 14

Darling Gardens, c.1955
(City of Collingwood)

Similar view, April 1993



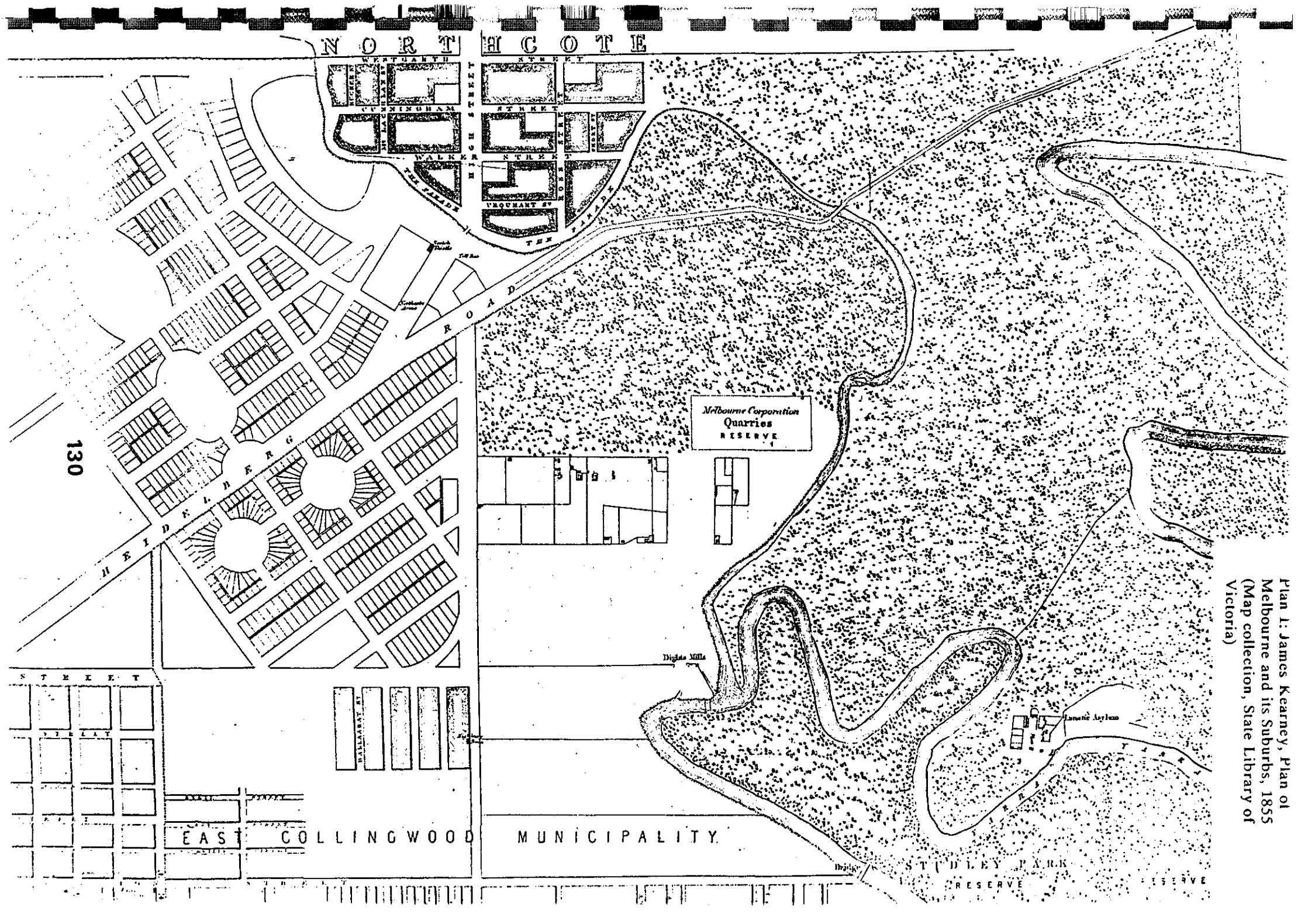


Photograph 15

Hoddle Street Reservation and Darling Gardens, c.1955, looking north

Similar view, April 1993





N O R T H C O T E

Melbourne Corporation
Quarries
RESERVE

Lunatic Asylum

E A S T C O L L I N G W O O D M U N I C I P A L I T Y

STUDLEY PARK
RESERVE

130

Plan I: James Kearney, Plan of Melbourne and its Suburbs, 1855 (Map collection, State Library of Victoria)

STREET

RAMSDEN

ST

STREET

131

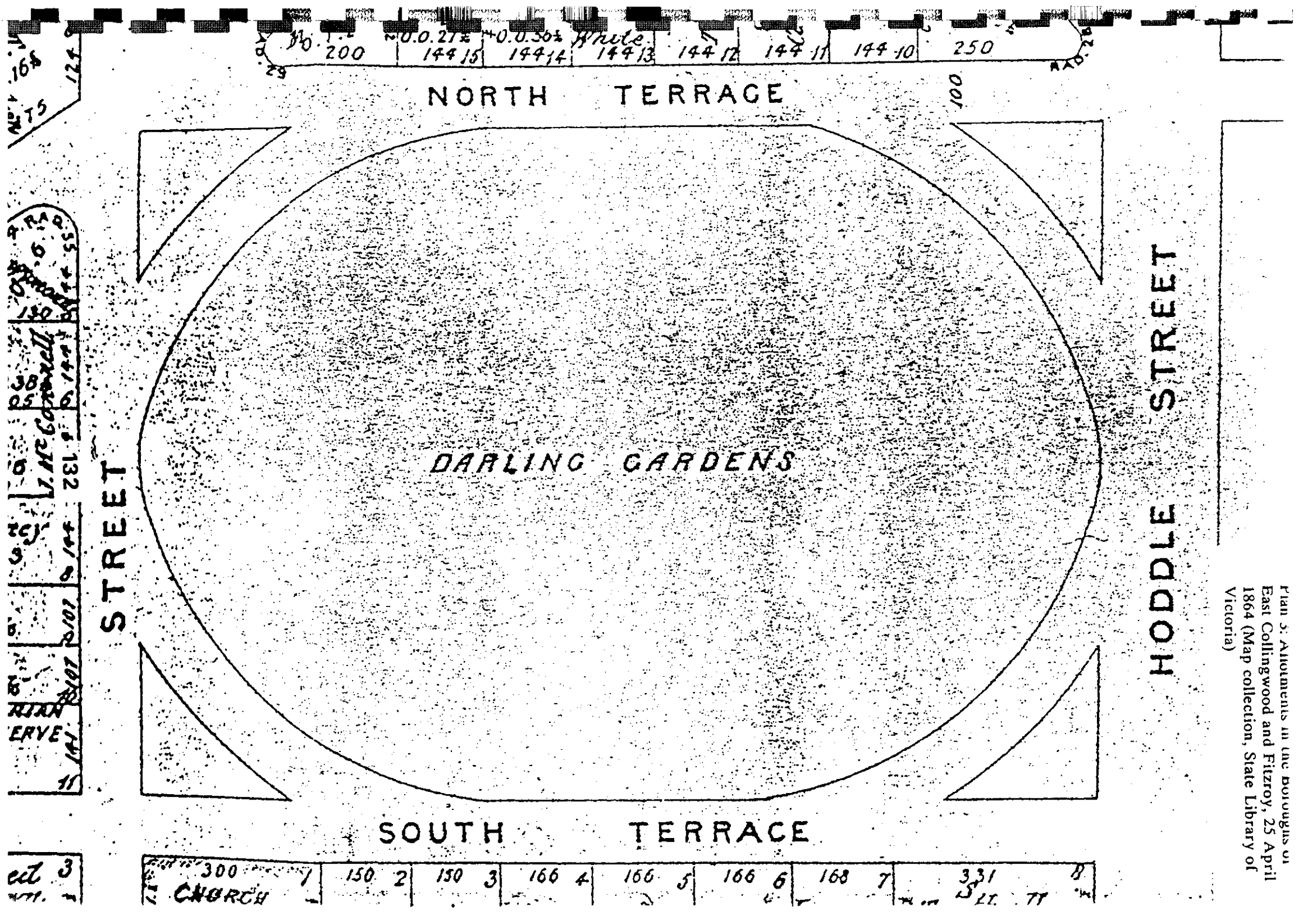
Proposed Reserve

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15.3.4

STREET

ROSENATH

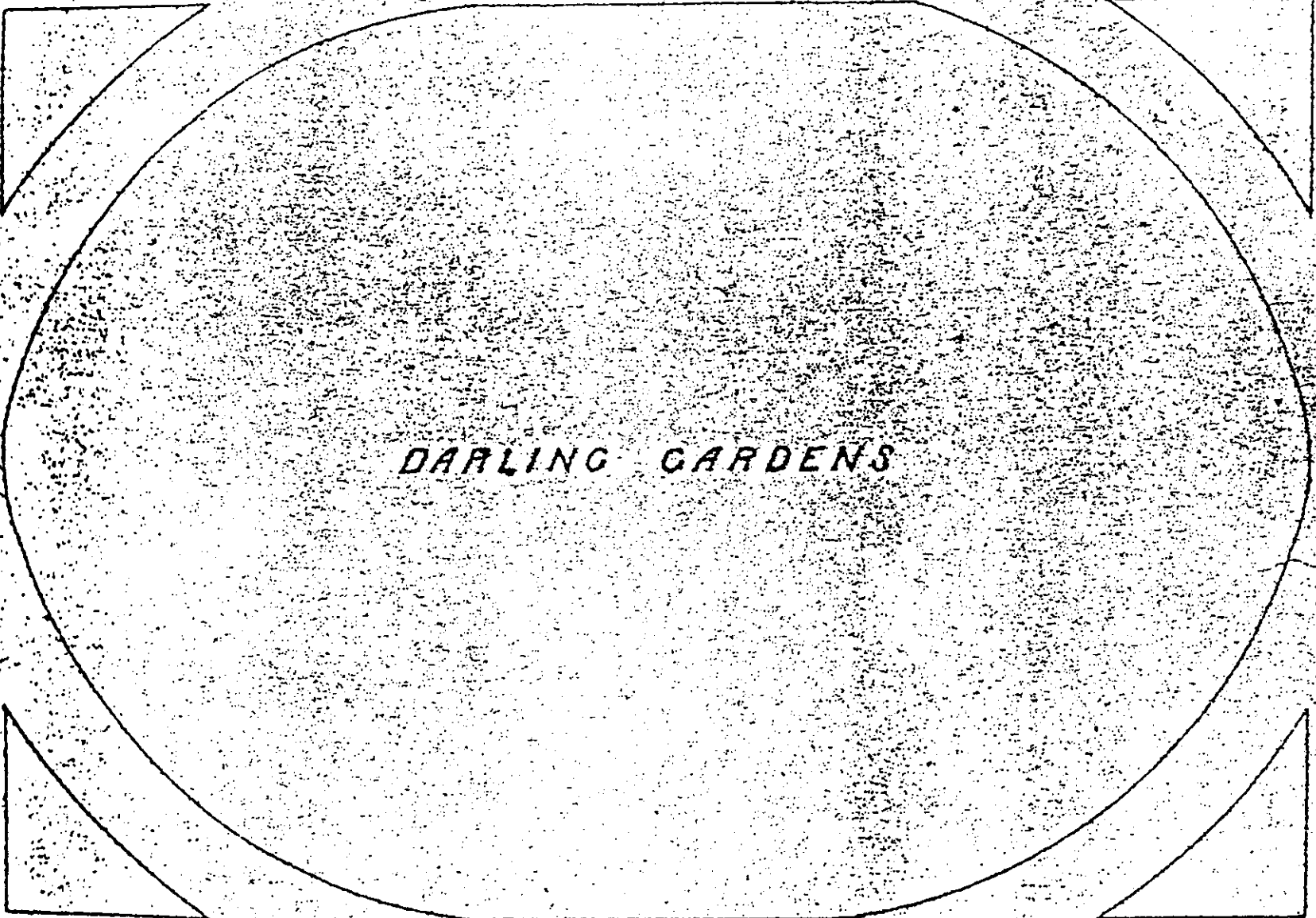
PLAN OF A PROPOSED RESERVE
Reserve, East Collingwood, 1863
(Map collection, State Library of
Victoria)



No. 200 0.0.21% 144 15 0.0.50% 144 14 144 13 144 12 144 11 144 10 250
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NORTH TERRACE

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DARLING GARDENS

STREET

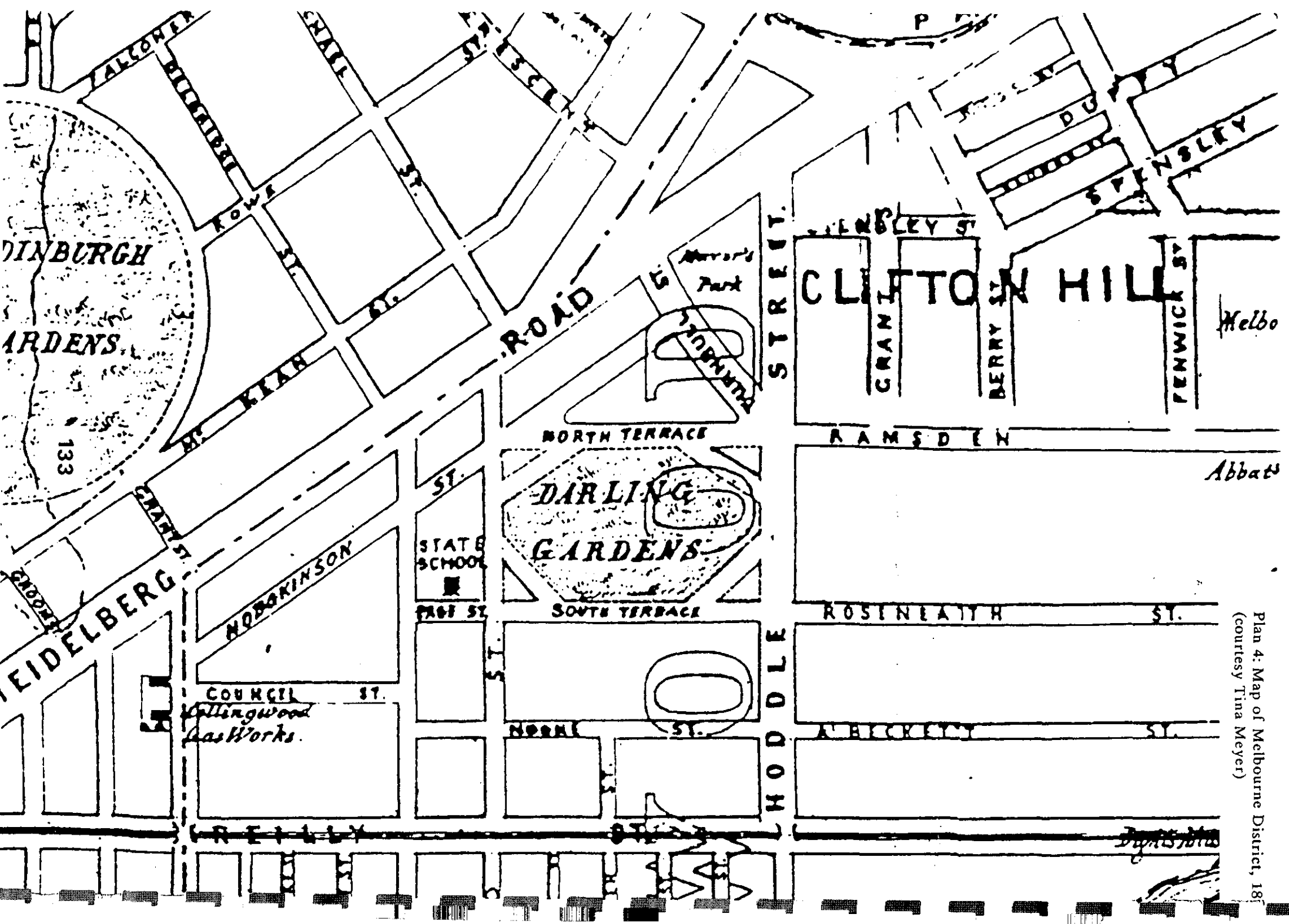
HODDLE STREET

SOUTH TERRACE

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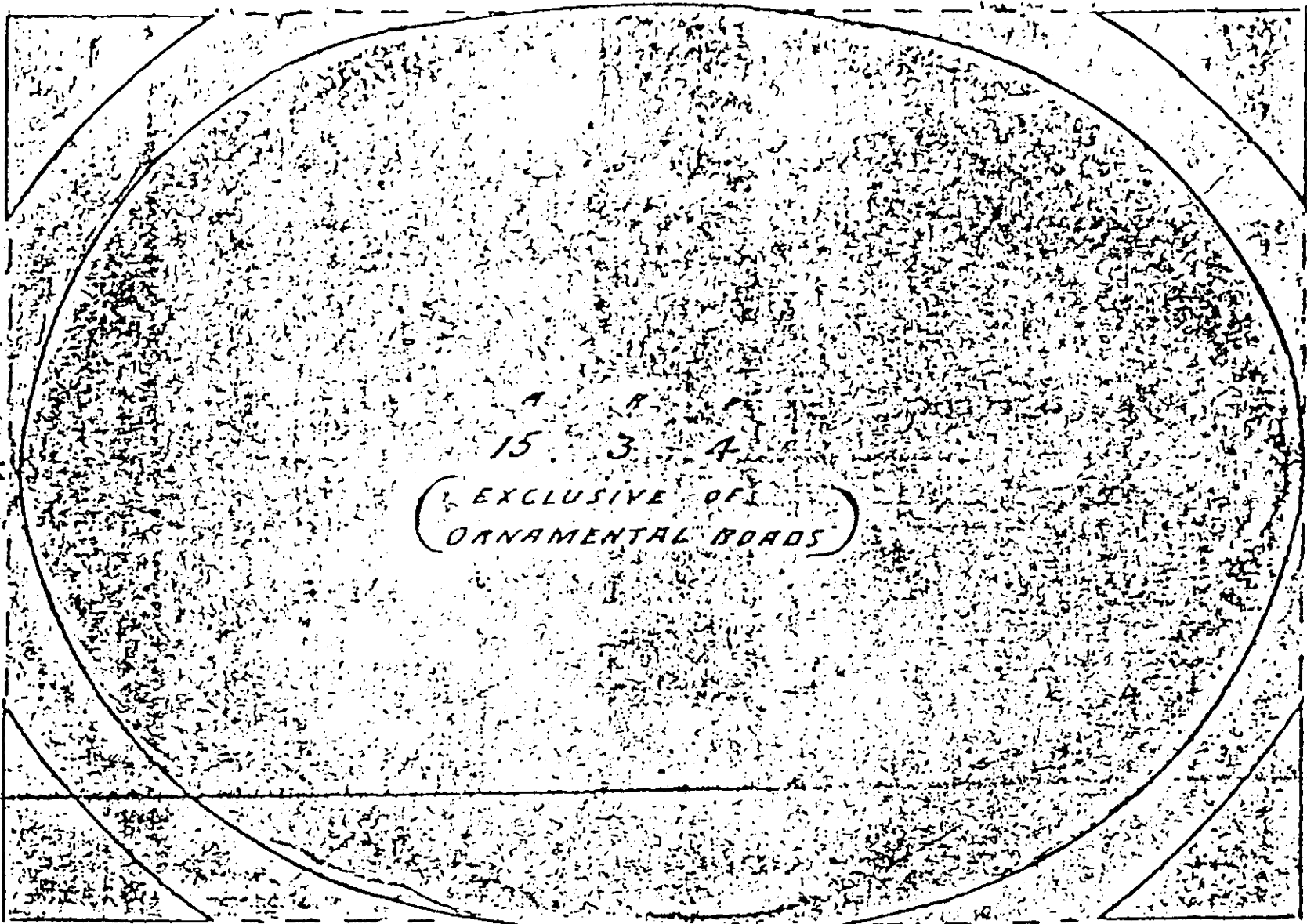
Plan 3. Allotments in the Boroughs of
 East Collingwood and Fitzroy, 25 April
 1864 (Map collection, State Library of
 Victoria)



Plan 4: Map of Melbourne District, 187
(courtesy Tina Meyer)

Land (111) 111 (111) and other success

NORTH ^E TERRACE



134

GOLD ST

HOOH ST

SOUTH ^W TERRACE

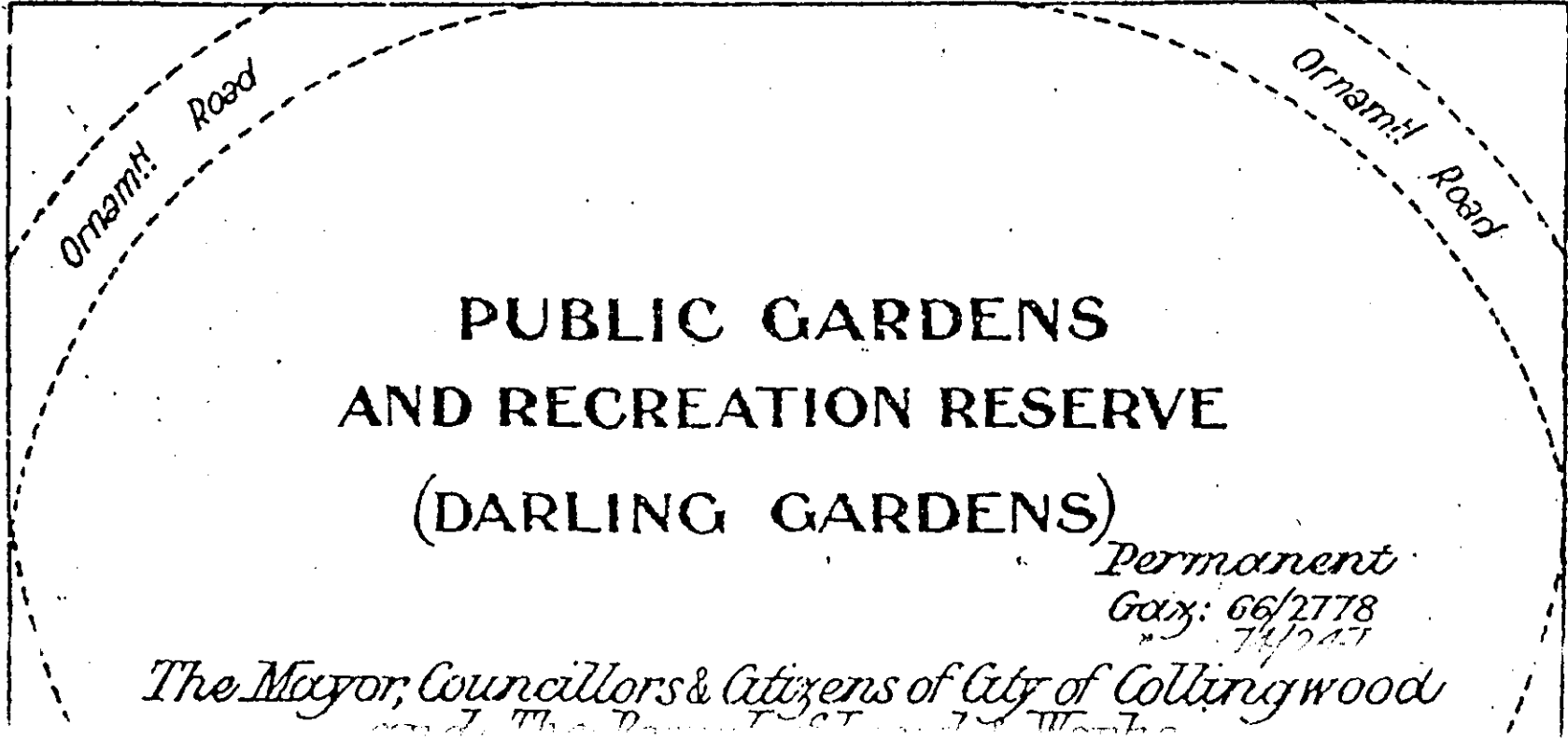
land owned as another in the same plot

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 REET
 A. 120
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 Rad. 5
 Symond
 1.6
 1.6
 50.80
 LMC 6
 11.11
 6.64
 38.6
 205
 ell
 6.64
 6
 135
 141

0°
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11.65	16.50	6	5	11.65	16.50	6	5	11.65	16.50	6	5	11.65	16.50	6	5	11.65	16.50	6

NORTH 90° 0' TERRACE



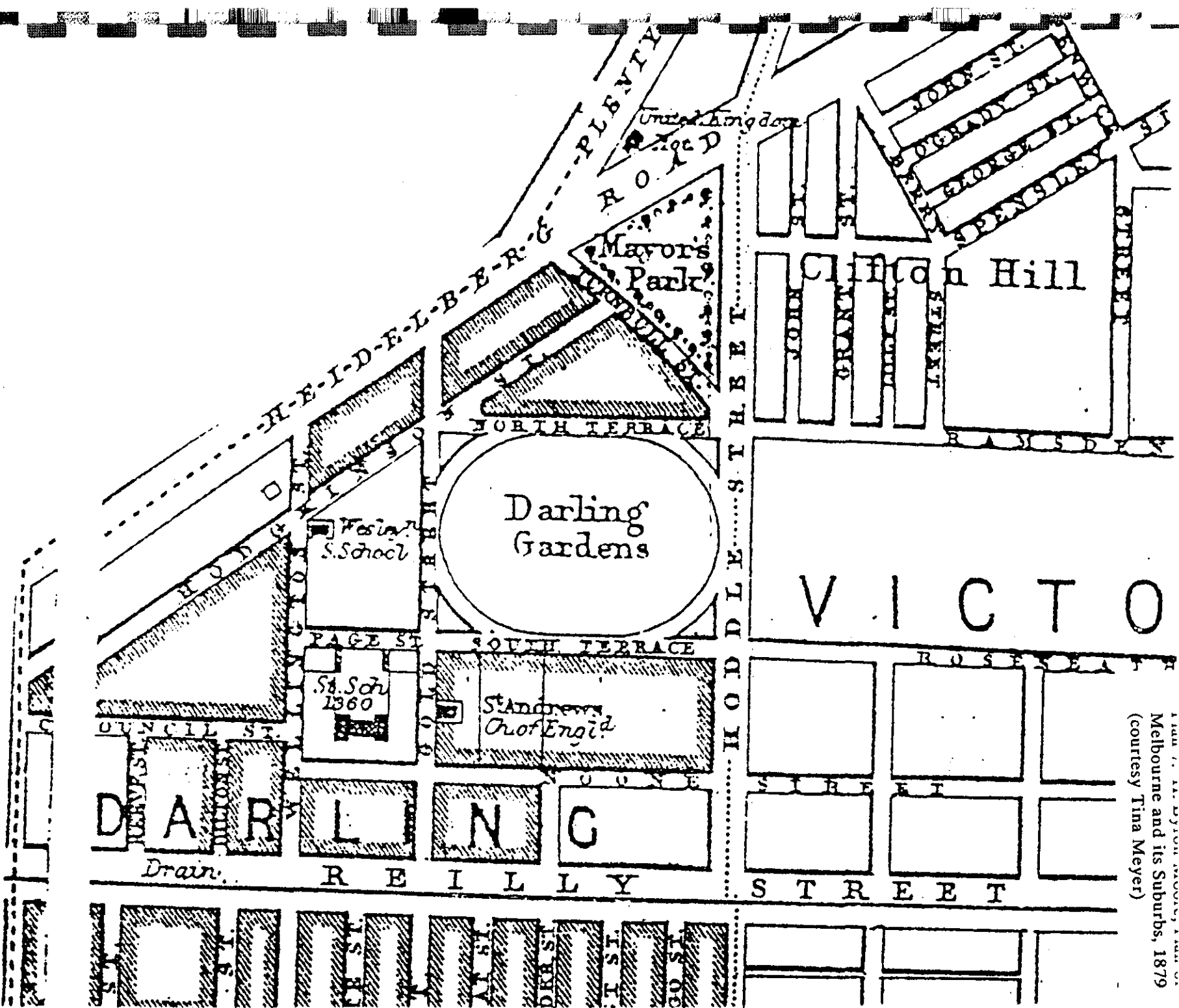
REET

0'48"

HODDLE

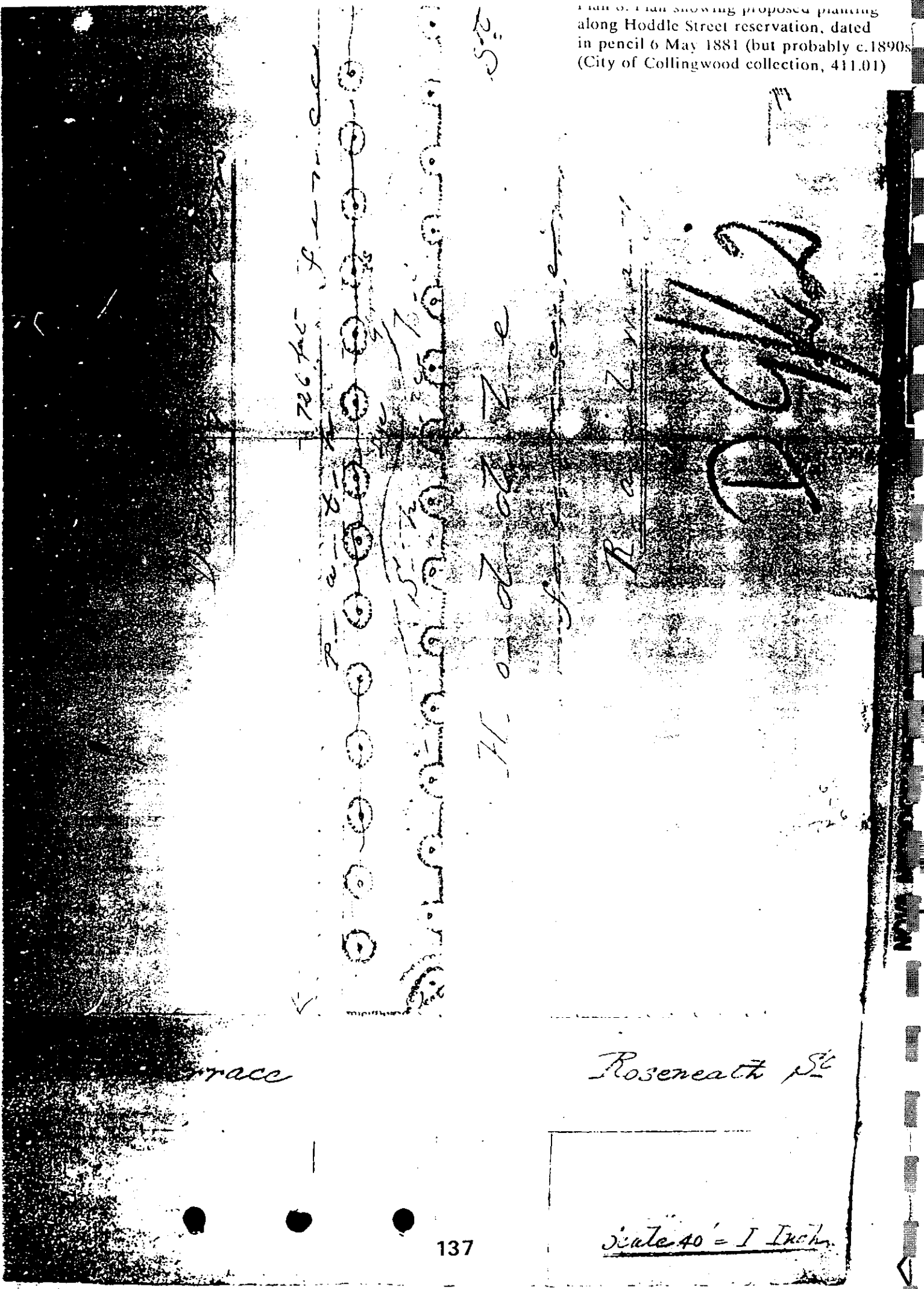
The Mayor, Councillors & Citizens of City of Collingwood

100
 MELBOURNE
 600
 108
 HURST



Plan of Melbourne and its Suburbs, 1879 (courtesy Tina Meyer)

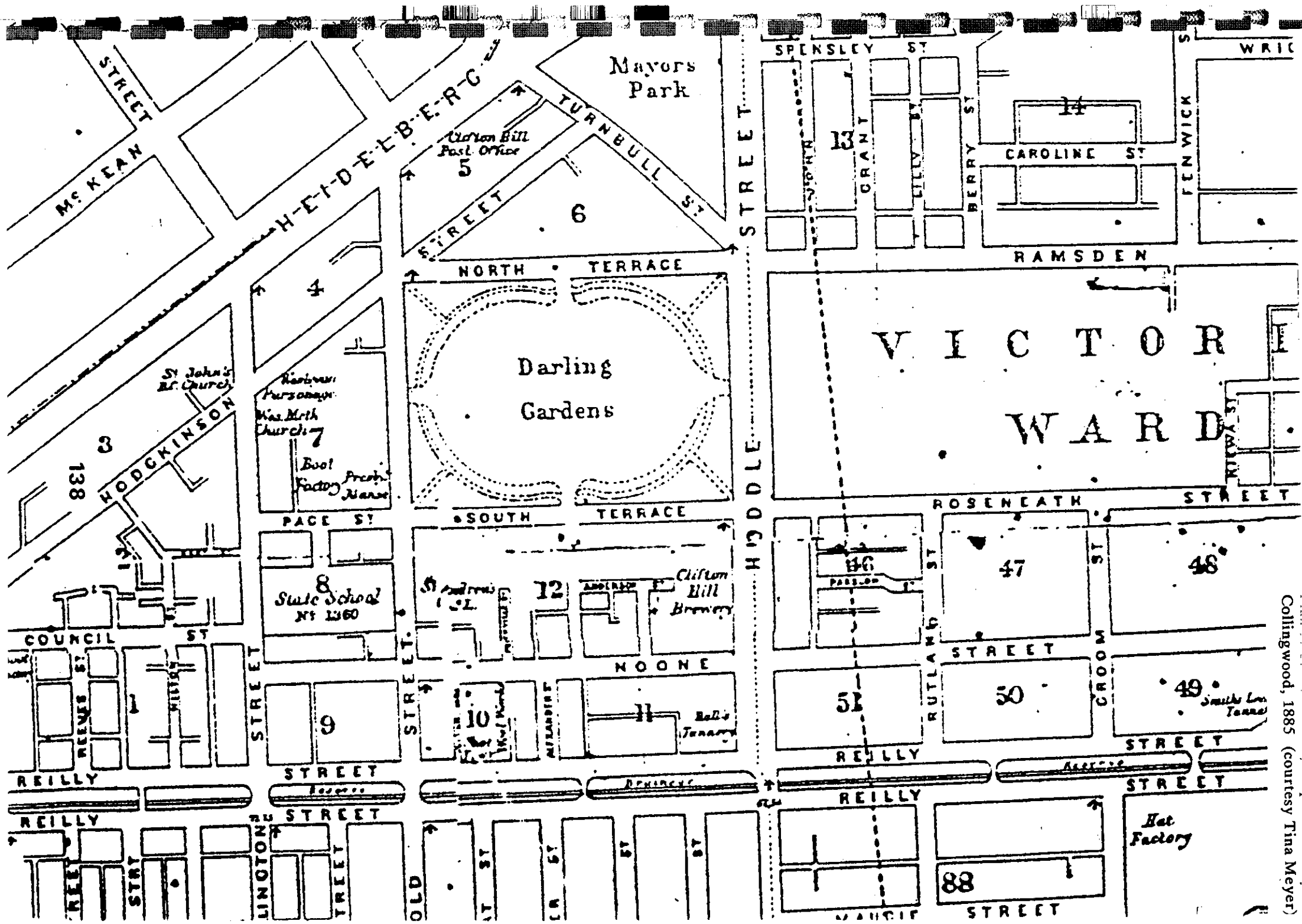
Plan showing proposed planting
along Hoddle Street reservation, dated
in pencil 6 May 1881 (but probably c.1890s
(City of Collingwood collection, 411.01)



trace

Roseneath St

Scale 40' = 1 Inch



Mayors Park

Clifton Hill
Past Office

Darling
Gardens

VICTORIA
WARD

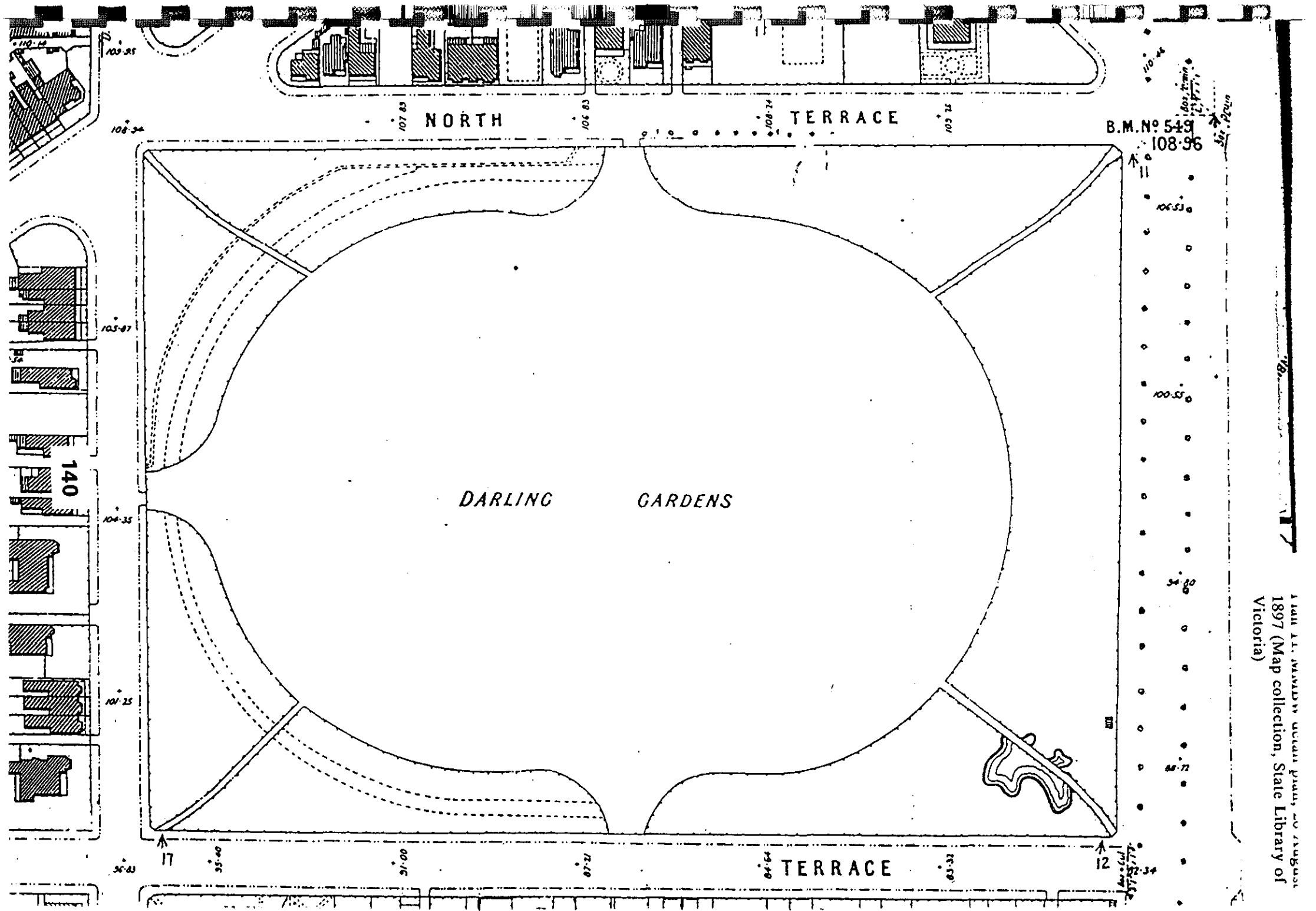
State School
No 1260

Clifton Hill
Brewery

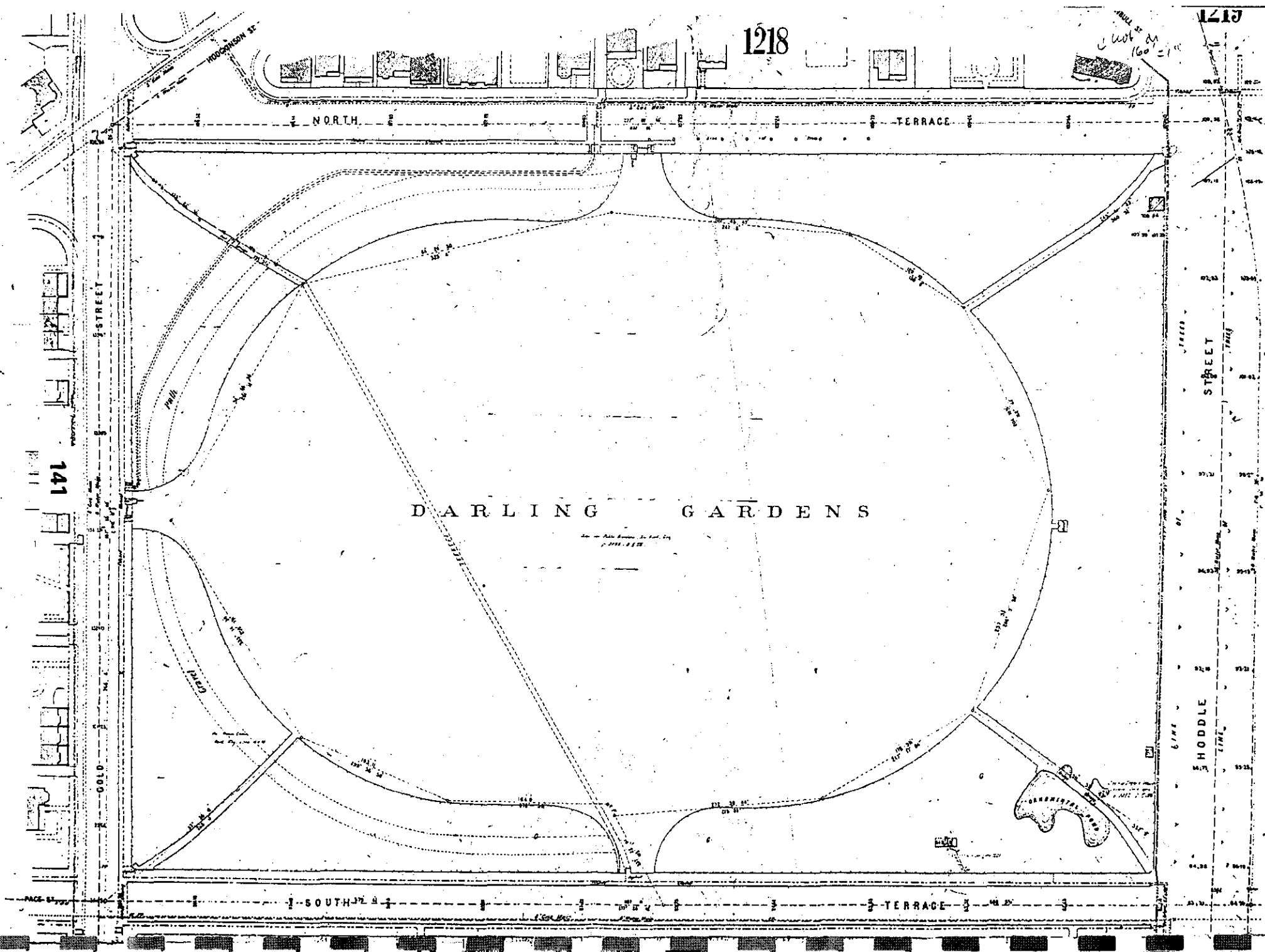
Smiths Linn
Tanner

Hat
Factory

Collingwood, 1885 (courtesy Tina Meyer)



1411. J. L. WARD'S SURVEY PLAN, 20 FEBRUARY 1897 (Map collection, State Library of Victoria)



1218

1217

W 160' 0" 160' 0" 160' 0"

DARLING GARDENS

See the Public Accountants Act, 1911, s. 412

141

Plan 12: MIMBW detail plan, c.1900
(courtesy Graeme Loughlin)

918.01

LINGWOOD
HODDLE STREET
ONE INCH



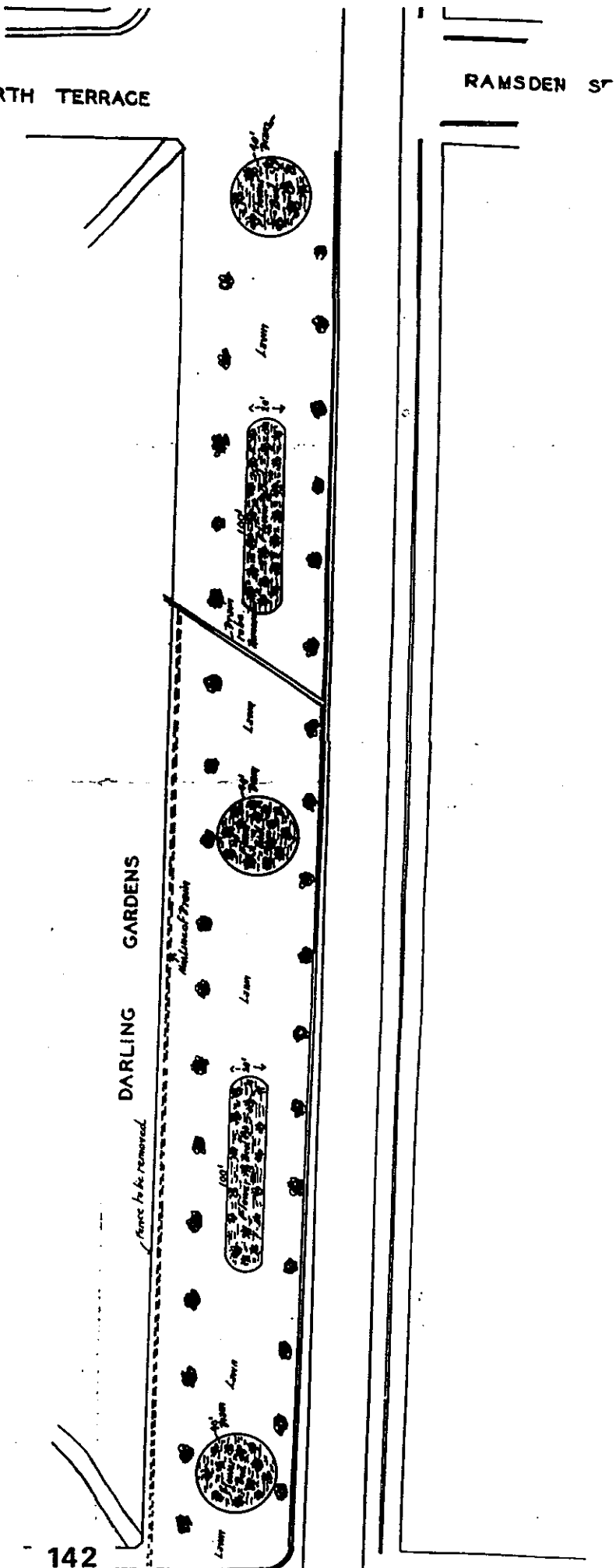
NORTH TERRACE

RAMSDEN ST

142

TERRACE

ROSENEATH ST



FITZROY

QUEENS

HODKINSON

COUNCIL

PARADE

MAYORS PARK

NORTH TERRACE

DARLING GARDENS

SOUTH TERRACE

NOONE

TURNBULL

PERVILLE ST

LANG ST

ANDERSON ST

ST

HODDLE

CLIFTON HILL

JOHN ST

GRANT

LILLEY

GORDON ST

MYRTLE ST

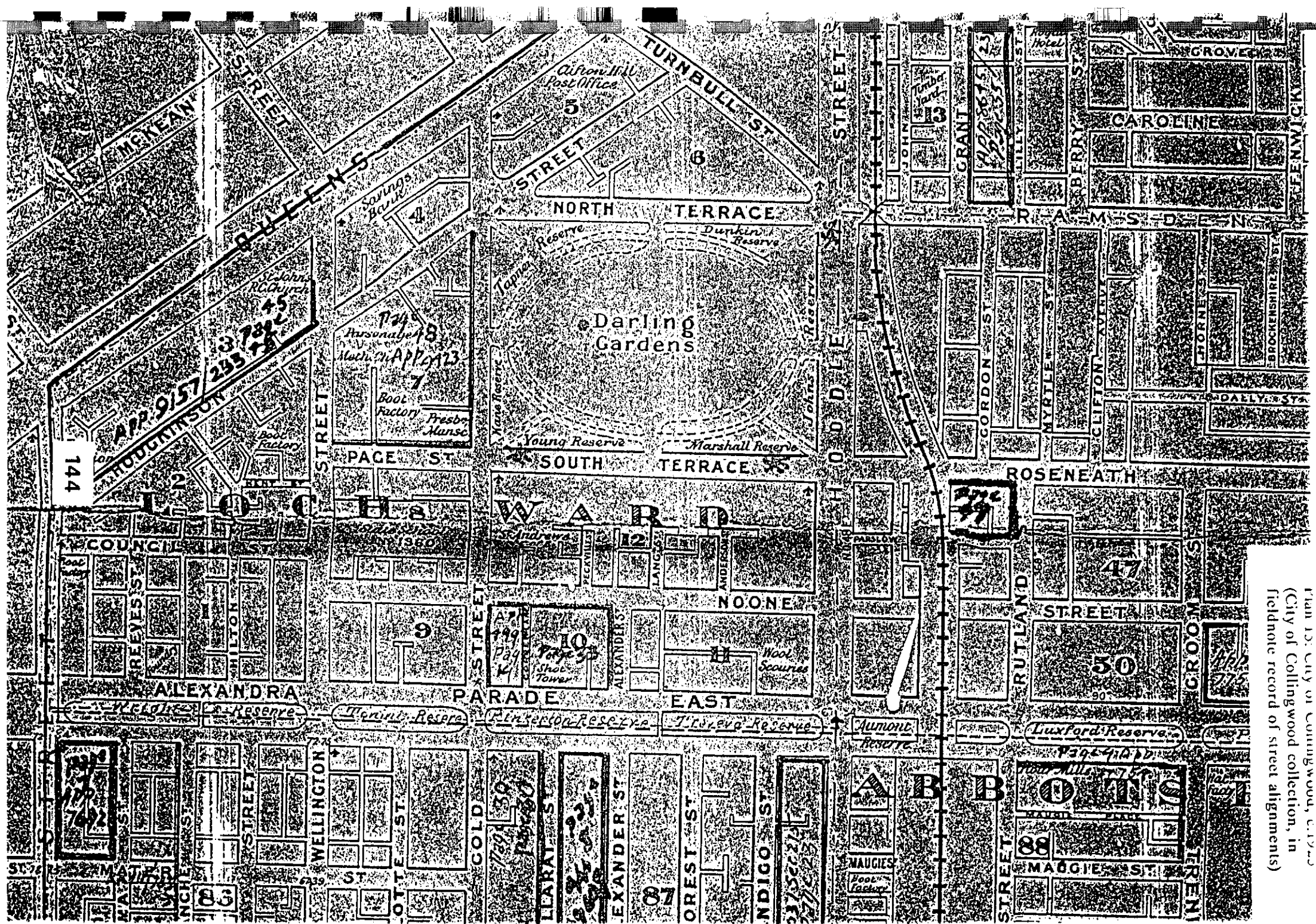
AVE

SPENSLEY ST

BERRY O'GRADY

CAR

Plan 14: Anderson Gowan Pty. Ltd.,
Collingwood Directory, c1921
(courtesy Tina Meyer)



144

37

Plan 12: City of Collingwood, c.1929
(City of Collingwood collection, in
fieldnote record of street alignments)

CITY OF COLLINGWOOD.

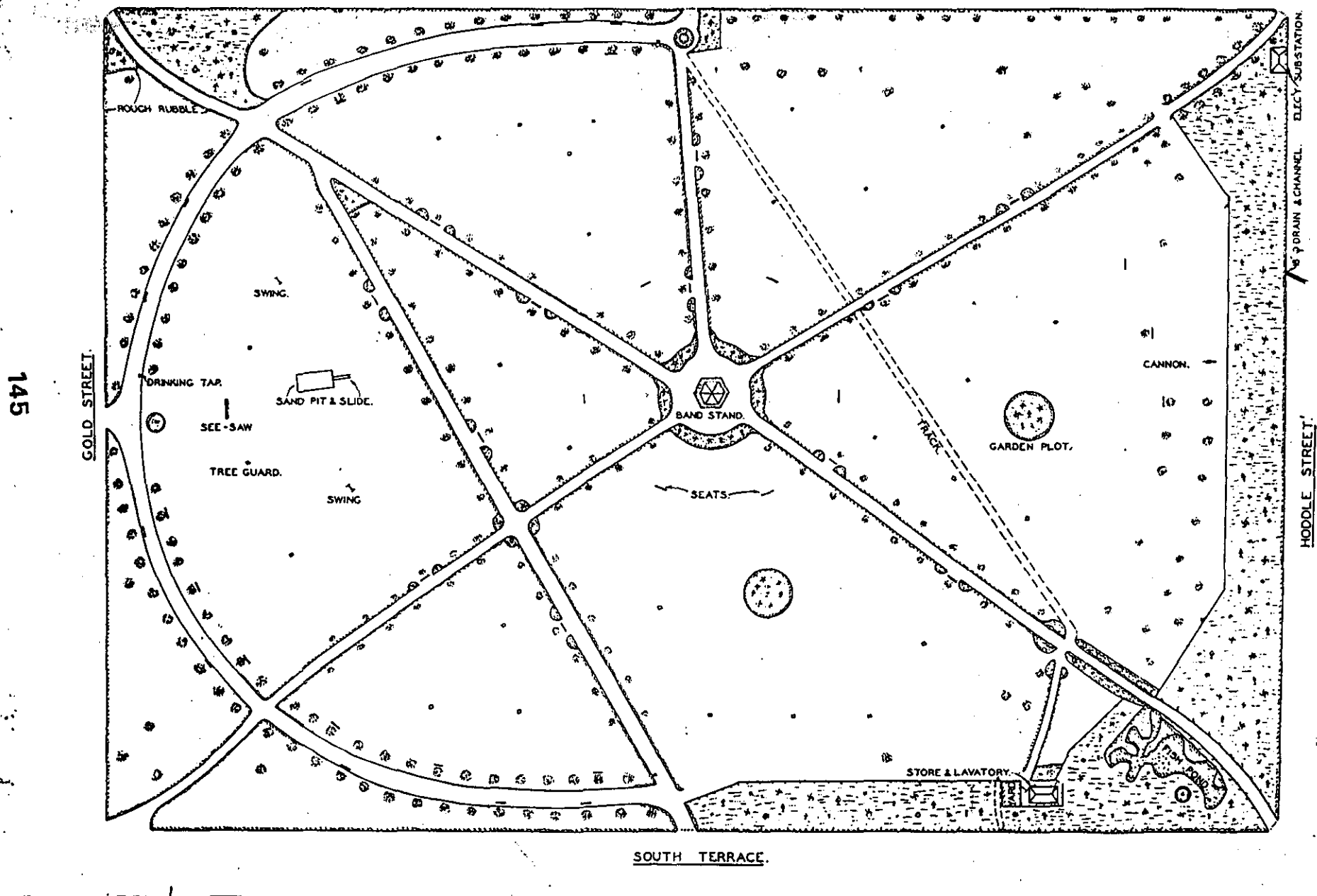
PLAN OF DARLING GARDENS.

SCALE 1" = 50 FT. = 1 IN.



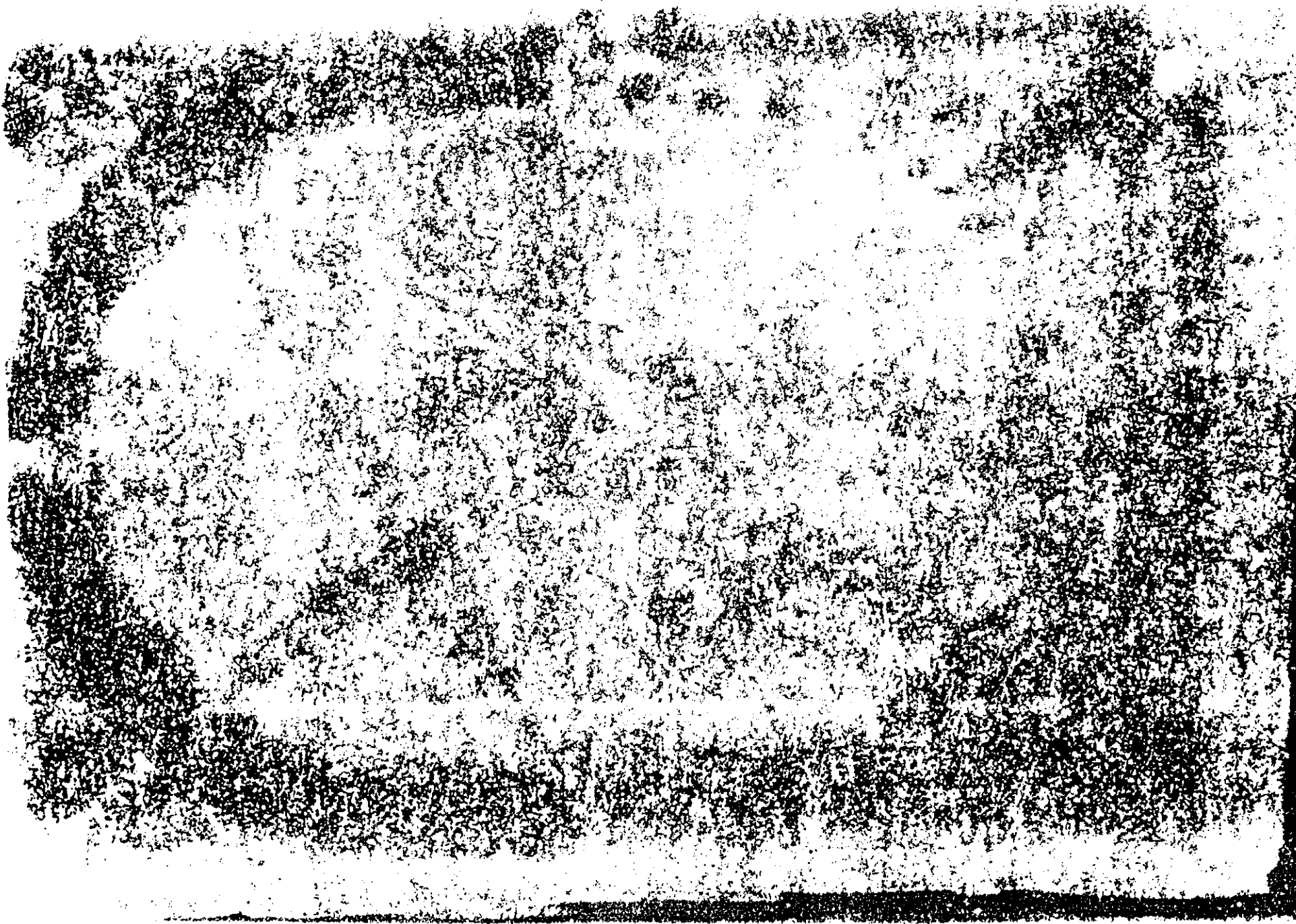
NORTH TERRACE.

SOUTH TERRACE.



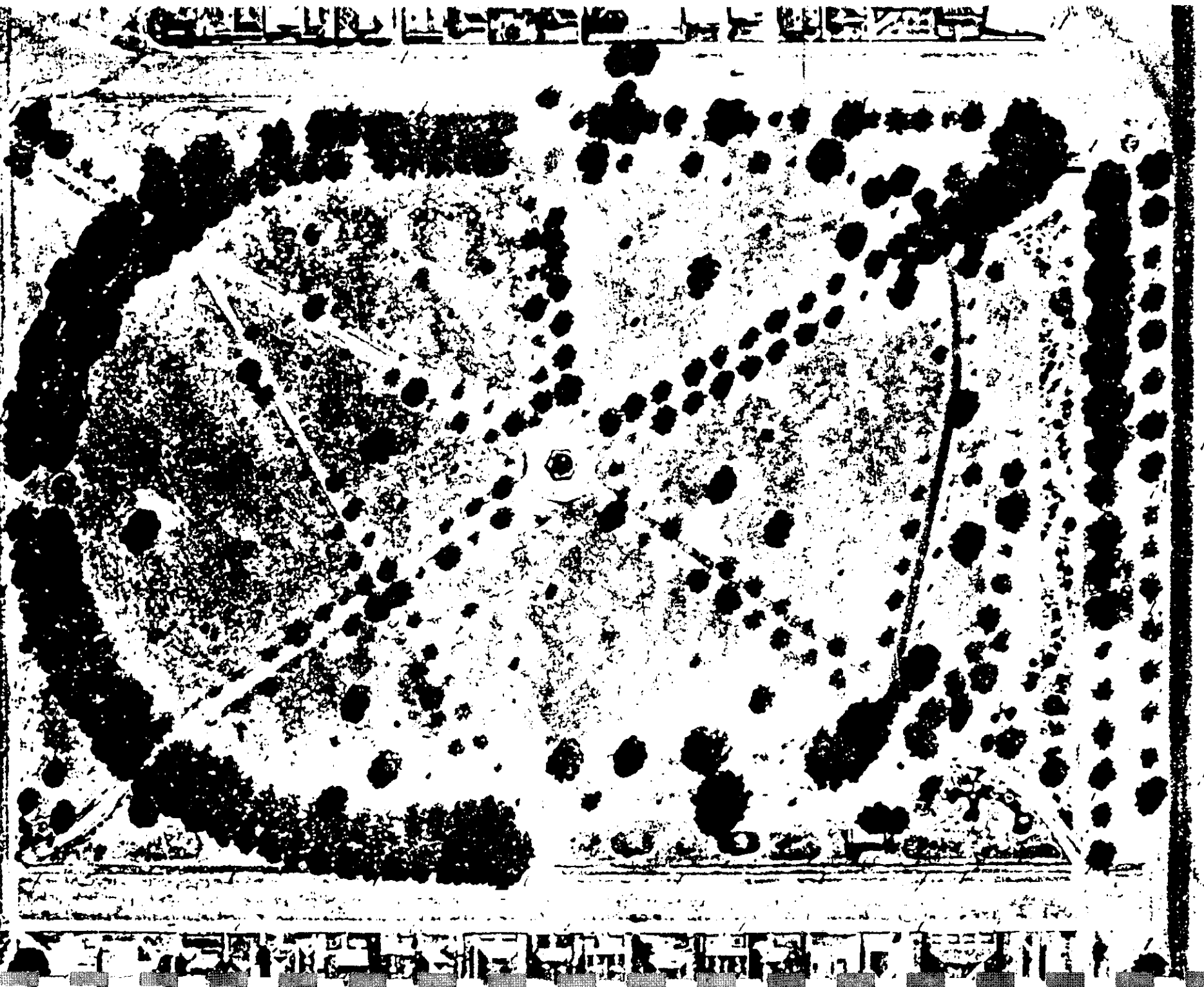
Plan 16: Plan of Darling Gardens, c.1930
(City of Collingwood collection, 1001.01)

Plan 17: Aerial photograph, 1931
(courtesy WBCM)



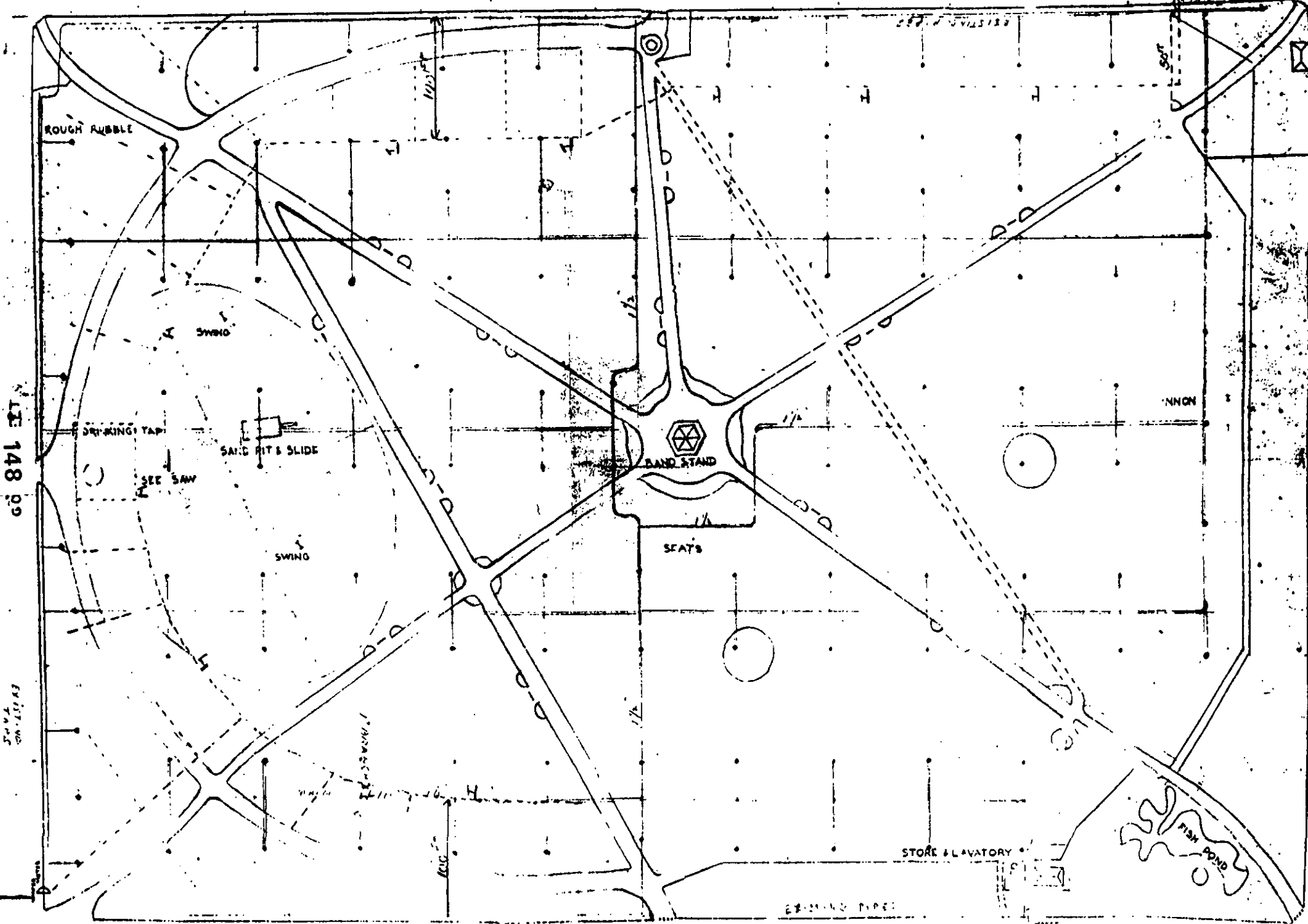
146

Plan 18: Aerial photograph, December
1945 (Vic Image)



147

NORTH TERRACE



LOT 148 09

BY 1917-06

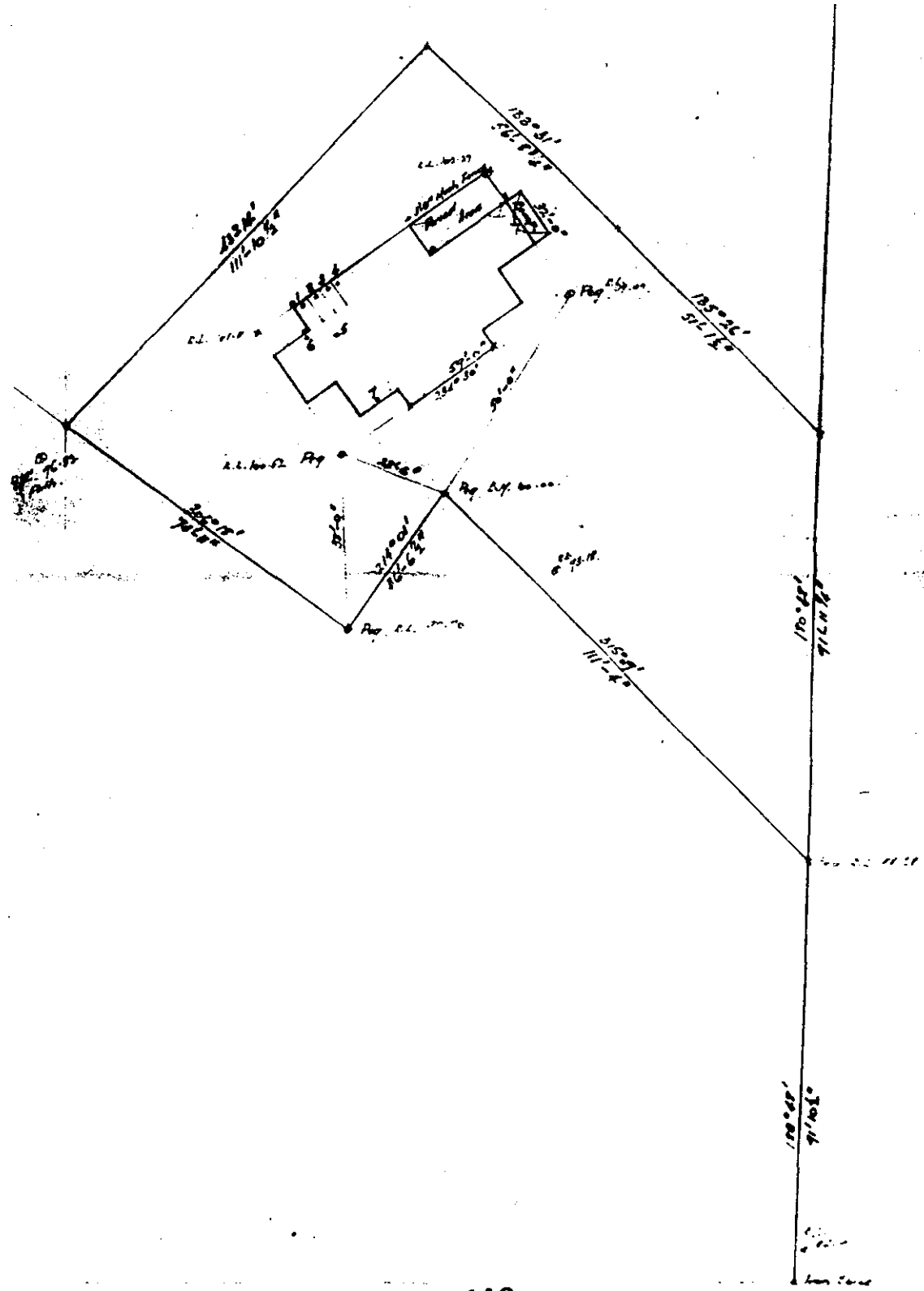
ELECTRIC SUBSTATION

WATER MAIN & CHANNEL

STREETS

Plan 19: Darling Gardens showing
 proposed watering system, c.1950
 (City of Collingwood collection, 1339.01)

Plan 20: Reservation and site plan of
 Infant Welfare Centre, c.1956
 (City of Collingwood collection)



SEAD.
 N.C.
 N.C.
 N.C.
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 S.M.E.

NORTH TERRACE

SUBSTATION

CANYON

HODDLE STREET

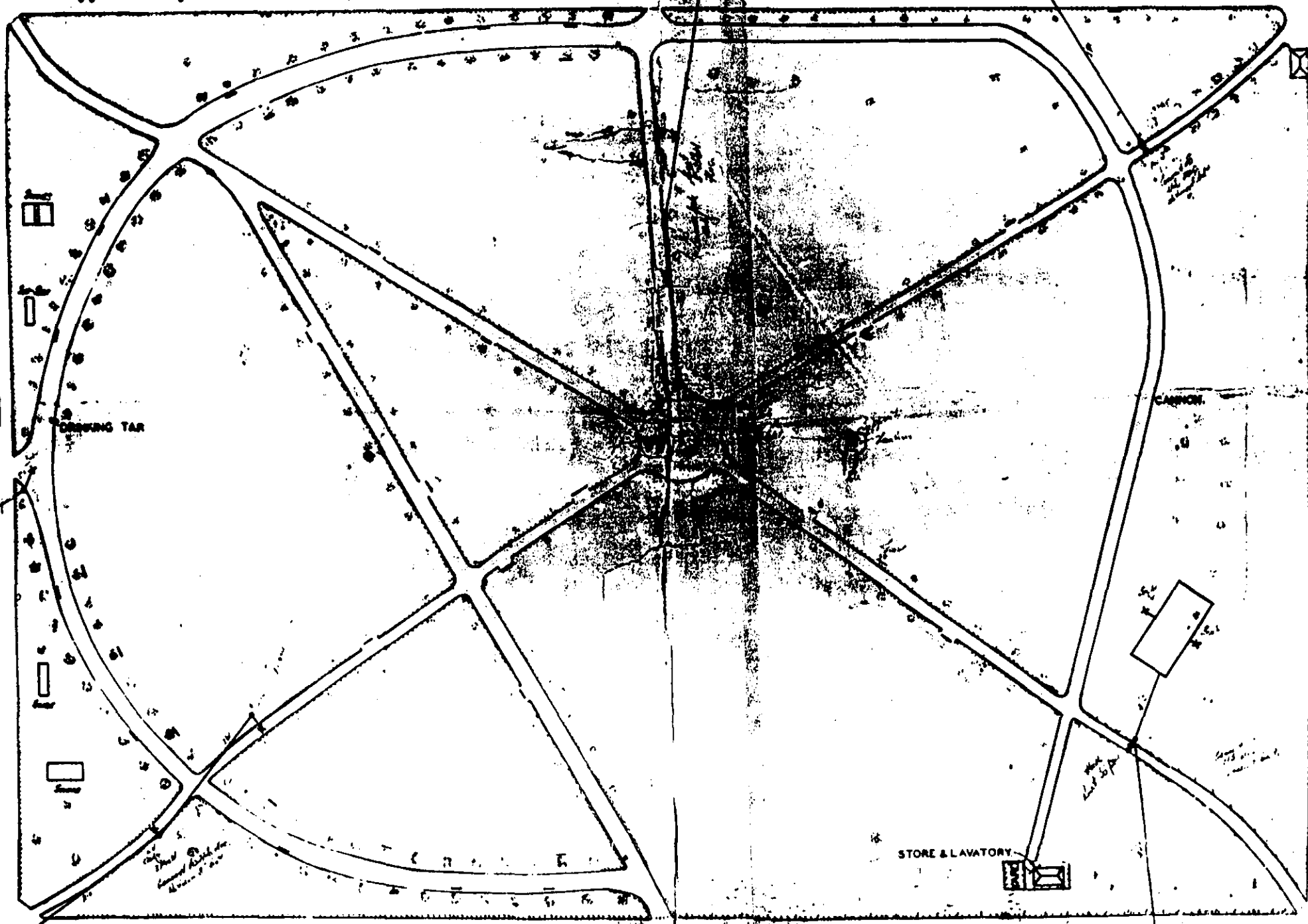
STORE & LAVATORY

SOUTH TERRACE

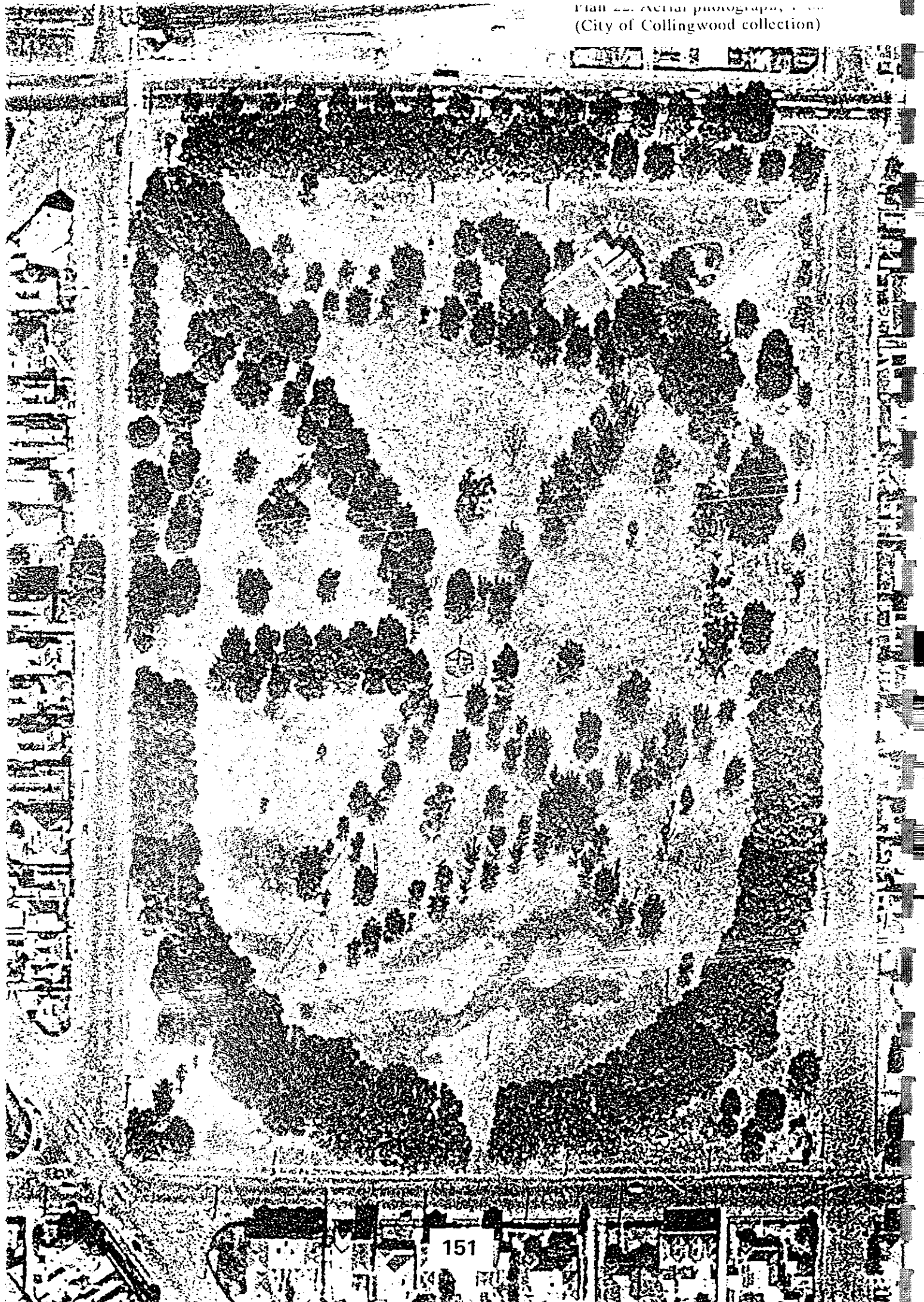
DROPPING TAP

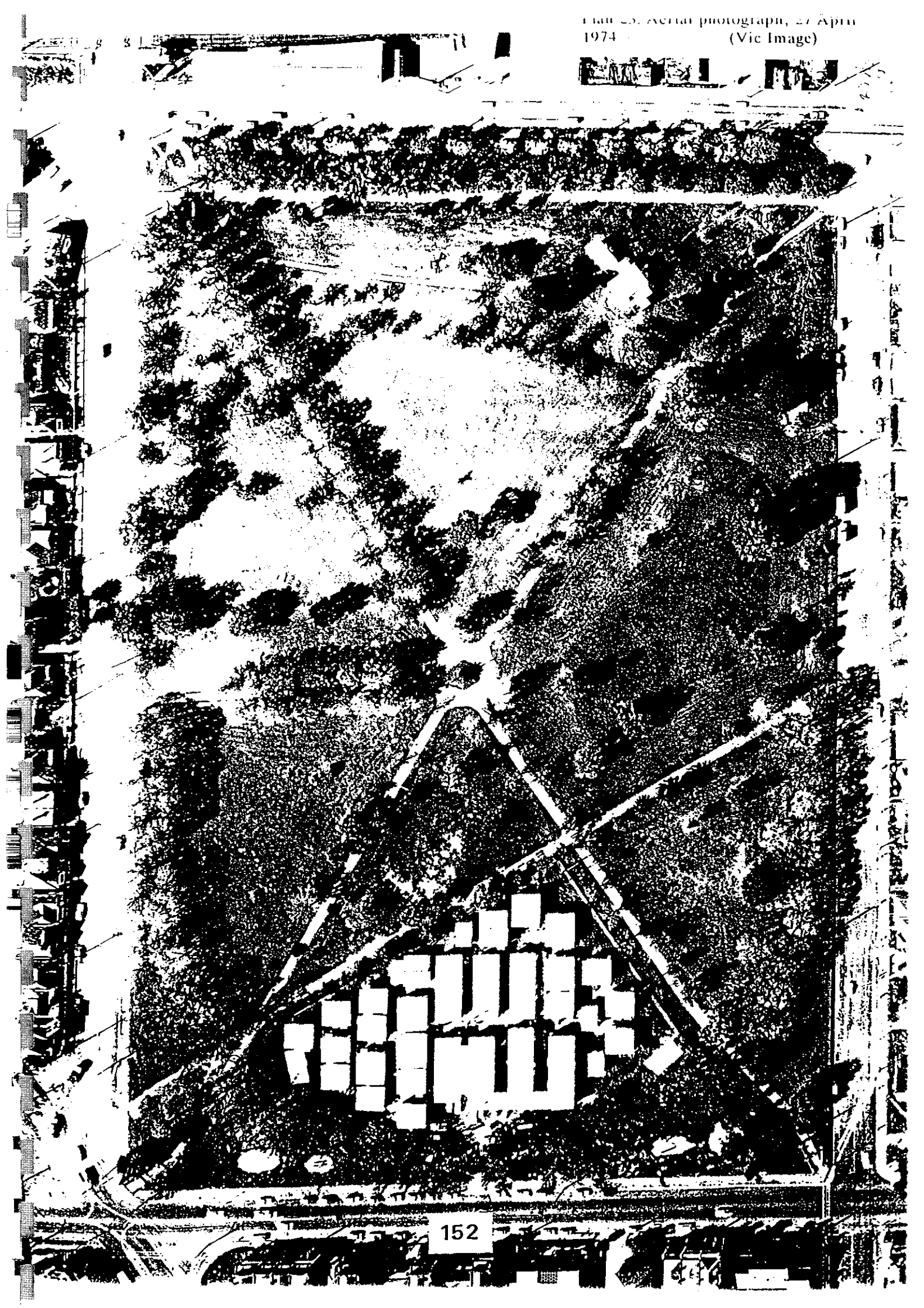
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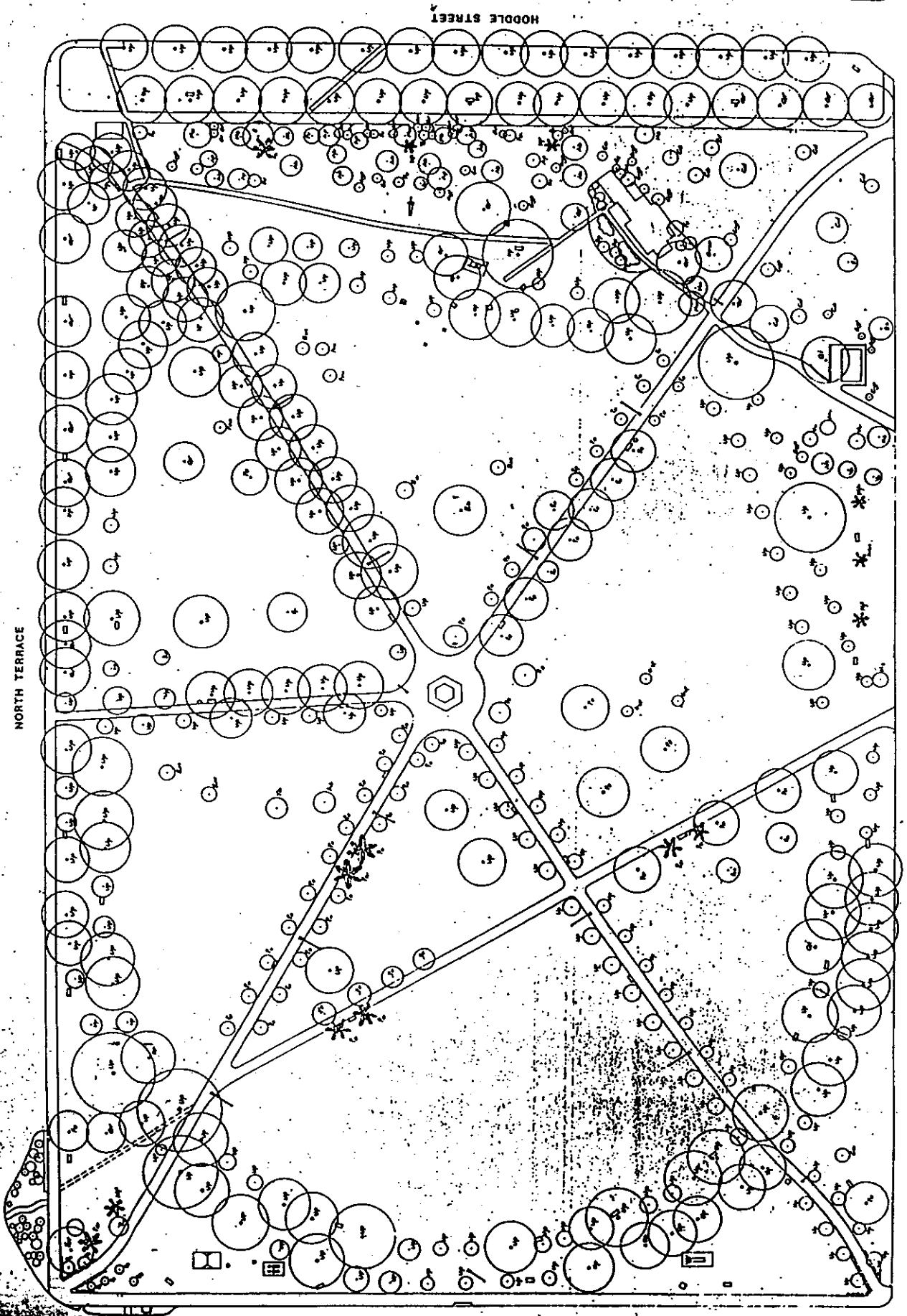
PLAN 21: DAILING YARD, 1870 (C)
(City of Collingwood collection, 1339.02)

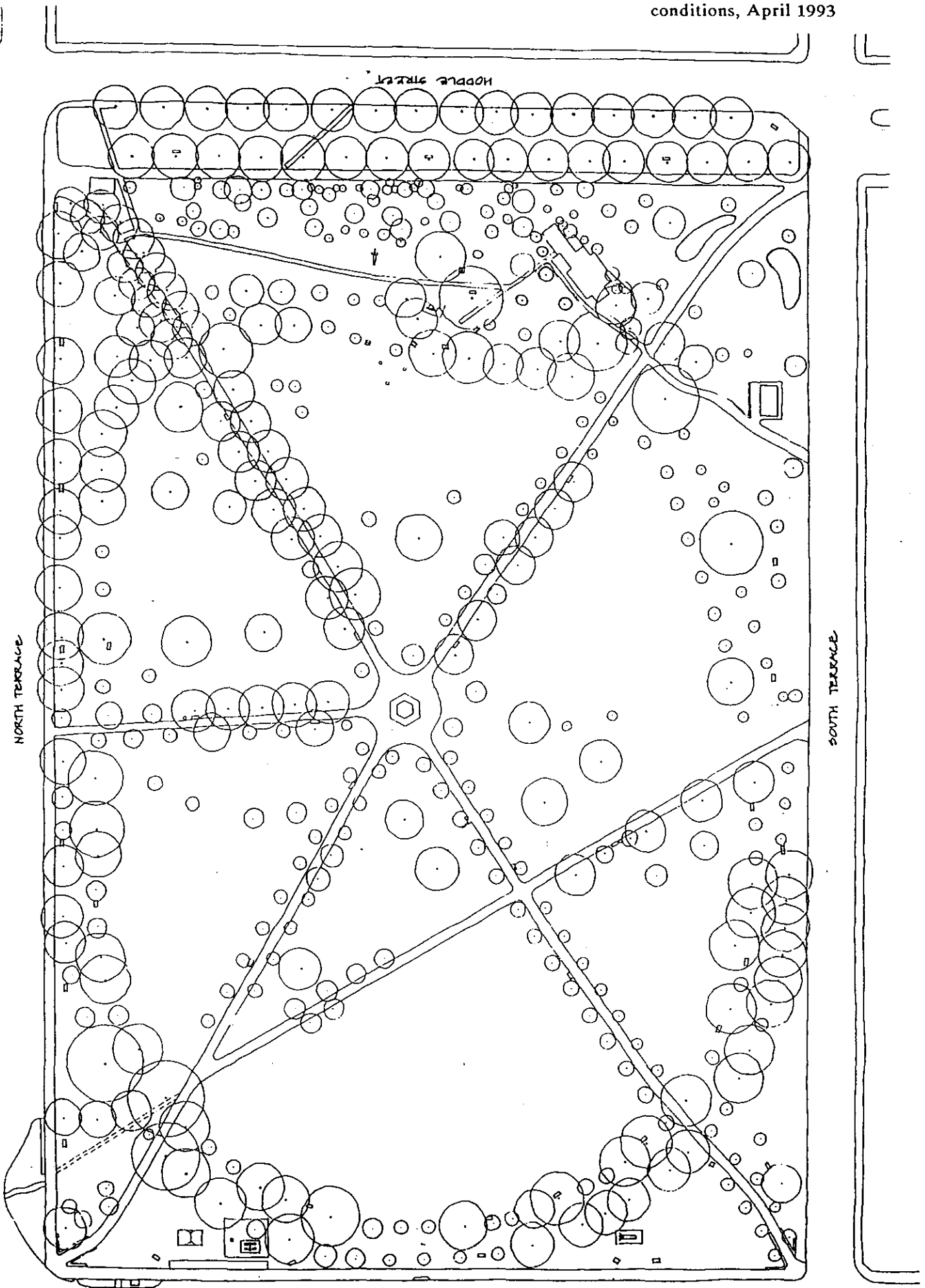


Plan 22. Aerial photograph, 1950
(City of Collingwood collection)



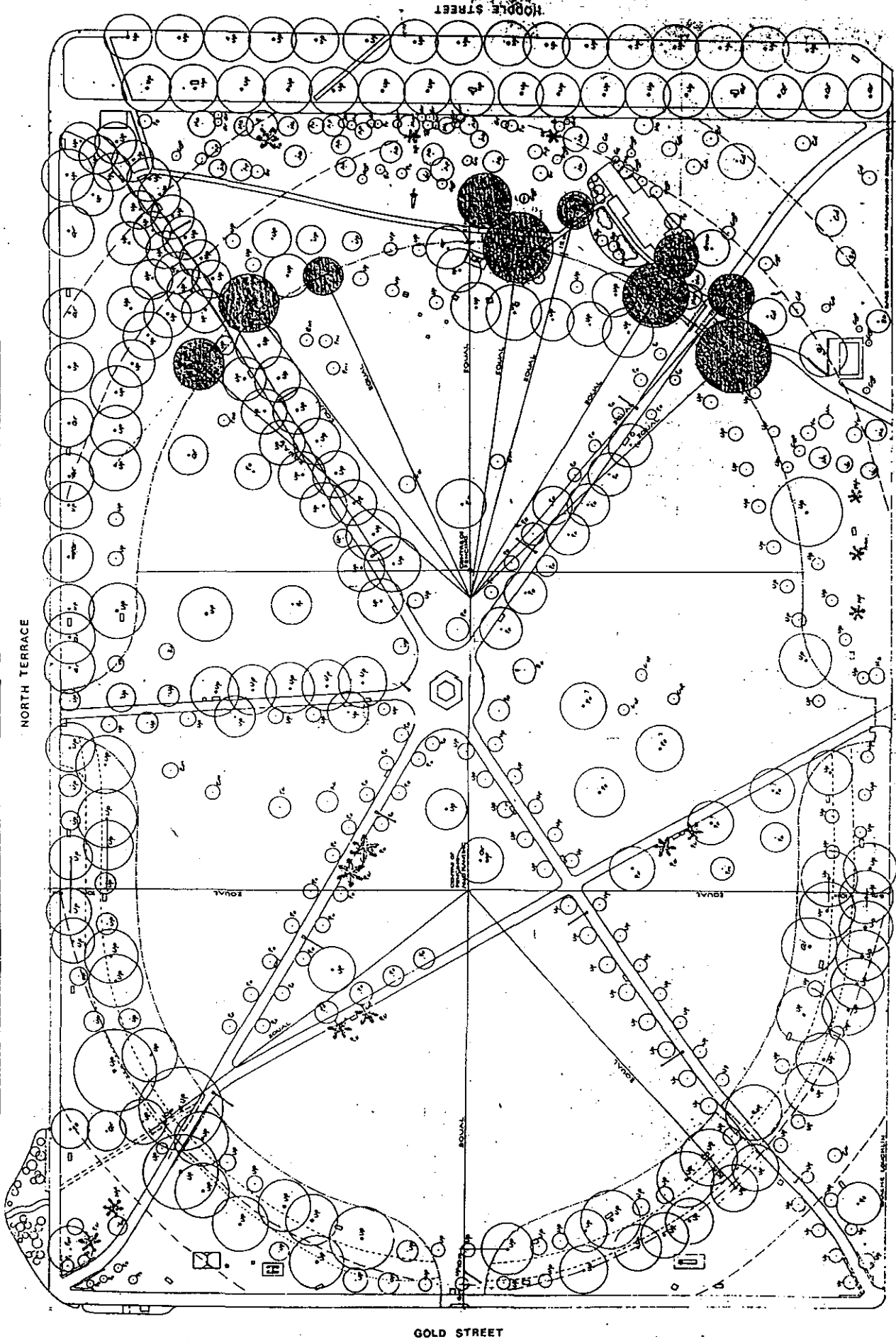






GOLD STREET

Plan 26: Darling Gardens showing alignment of 'ornamental drives' and radii of semi-circular avenues (prepared by Graeme Loughlin)



DARLING GARDENS

Plan 26: Darling Gardens showing alignment of 'ornamental drives' and radii of semi-circular avenues (prepared by Graeme Loughlin)