



Portion 499 Parish of Field of Mars

## ‘A SUITABLE GROUND FOR BOWLS, CROQUET AND TENNIS’

**PROPOSED NEW REAL TENNIS COURT BUILDING  
AT THE CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB  
60-74 THE CRESCENT, CHELTENHAM NSW 2119**

**CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE PLACE  
ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE  
PREPARATION OF STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT**

### **PART B : CHARTING THE CULTURAL HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE**

**Prepared for the Sydney Real Tennis Club Inc.**

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### **6.1 Foundation of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited**

The cultural history of the Cheltenham Recreation Club has been charted in considerable detail by the Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group (BCHG) to include much valuable biographical information concerning William Henry Harris [II] (1874-1953) and William Chorley (1860-1936), both recognised as founders of the Recreation Club at Cheltenham in 1913. As well, members of the BCHG have documented the life and career of William Mark Nixon, an architect now known to have been involved in the design and layout of the original site of the Cheltenham Recreation Club in 1913-1914, as well as designing the original primitive CRC clubhouse at the same time. The succinct statement on the early history of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, as published on the BCHG website, reads:

In 1907 William Harris purchased 5 1/2 acres of William Chorley's subdivision of Cheltenham [sic] between Beecroft Road and The Crescent. He developed the house and grounds over the years from 1907 to about 1920. The house was much enlarged, deep verandas were added to all sides and formal gardens with gravel paths were laid out including rare ornamental trees and some 3,000 rose bushes. A bowling green was constructed on the southern side of the house which was much used by William Harris and his friends. William Harris was especially fond of riding his horses around Cheltenham and Beecroft. He was remembered by local community for his love of horses, his daily riding and the fact that he was never seen with his coat off. He was also [a] keen sportsman.

On 30 October 1912 he hosted a gathering of fifteen local male residents of financial means at his home "Edensor." At this meeting he offered to donate two acres from his garden in addition to his private bowling green to establish a recreation club to provide 'a bowling green for the Dads, a croquet lawn for the Mums and tennis courts for the children'. Following this private function, a public meeting was held at the Beecroft School of Arts on 7 February 1913 at which a Foundation committee of 7 was appointed; subscription rates were set, and a promotional scheme agreed upon to encourage membership of the proposed Cheltenham Recreation Club.

The land was transferred to the newly incorporated club on 28 June 1913 and construction commenced on two tennis courts, a four-rink bowling green, and a croquet lawn. In 1923 he gave a further portion of the Edensor land for extensions and in the 1950s another portion which had been a cow paddock in front of the house. He was Patron of the Club from 1913 to 1953 and spent many hours with old friends there. After William's death, part of the property was sold to pay death duties. A sympathetic subdivision and covenants on the garden have resulted in little alteration of the current grounds to its original character.

A more intensive examination of land titles held in the New South Wales Land Registry reveals that William Henry Harris [II] purchased Portions 494 and 499 in the Parish of Field of Mars from Catherine Rattray on 21 January 1907, and that this land was never a part of William Chorley's holdings at Cheltenham [See Section 4.0].



## 6.2 Early Development of the Site and the First Clubhouse (1913-1957)

The original 1913 'Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited' have not been perused, but a copy is held by the CRC and at the NSW State Archives [NRS-13022-1-[12/1086]-No. 1251]. The early history of the Cheltenham Croquet Club was written by CRC member H. (Hazel) Barr and published in 1991 under the banner *The First Twenty Years : A Brief History of the Cheltenham Croquet Club*, Cheltenham, 1991. Whilst this brief account of the origins of the Croquet Club records pertinent details of the work of various parties to form the Cheltenham Recreation Club and to develop the site for croquet, lawn bowls and lawn tennis, it is largely silent on matters to do with the design and construction of the first Clubhouse, a small section of which survives to the present time in the grounds of the CRC.

The Cheltenham Recreation Club celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 17 February 1988, at which time the president prepared an address to members, which typescript survives in the archives of the CRC. Therein, he mentioned that at the public meeting to form the recreation club, held at the Beecroft School of Arts on 7 February 1913, fifteen local residents were nominated to organise the affairs of the new organisation. The formation of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited was formally announced in the *Sunday Times* on 17 August 1913, with advice that the CRC had been formed with an intended working capital of £2,000.

### THE CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB, LTD.

Residents in Cheltenham and surrounding district will be pleased to learn that the above company is now incorporated with a capital of £2000 divided into 4000 shares of 10/ each, entitling holders to annual dividends not exceeding 5 per cent. Mr. W. H. Harris, of Cheltenham, has generously handed over to the company a block of land opposite the railway station for the purpose of a recreation club. Mr. C. H. Gorman is chairman of directors, and Mr. P. C. Greaves, Cheltenham, acting hon. secretary. Mr. Greaves will be pleased to receive applications for shares, and will furnish full particulars.

[*Sunday Times*, Sunday 17 August 1913, p. 10]

A search of the local newspaper, the *Cumberland Argus*, has established that William Mark Nixon (1859-1931), a local architect, Shire councillor and prominent community leader, was involved in the design and layout of the original site of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, given to the CRC by William Henry (Bill) Harris [II] on 28 June 1913 [See Fig. 4.5 (a)]. Architect W. M. Nixon and Son prepared plans and specifications and called tenders for the work in August 1913. The tender notice reads:

### THE CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB, LIMITED.

TENDERS are invited for LAYING OUT and FORMING GROUNDS for the Cheltenham Recreation Club, Limited, at Cheltenham. Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of W. M. NIXON and SON, Architects, 163 Pitt-street, Sydney.

P. C. GREAVES, Hon. Secretary, Cheltenham.

[*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, Saturday 23 August 1913, p. 7]

The contract for these works totalling some £700 was awarded to A. L. Doust, a contractor of Chatswood, who variously undertook work as a landscape contractor and residential builder in Sydney's northern suburbs [See *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 August 1913, p. 13 : A. L. Doust, Landscape Gardener, Chatswood]. Arthur Leslie Doust (1873-1955) was born at Parramatta on 19 February 1873, married Florence Maude Blinkhorn on 8 August 1894, had issue four children and was divorced in April 1926. In a long career as a gardener and builder, Arthur L. Doust rose through the ranks to finally practice as a landscape architect from his abode in the City View Flats on Lavender Bay.

He died in 1955. A search of local newspapers reveals that Doust undertook several projects for W. M. Nixon's clients in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The project to construct new lawns at the site of the Cheltenham Recreation Club was not without difficulty, for the *Cumberland Argus* reported in May 1914 on the following matter:

**The Damaged Lawn.** — Cheltenham Recreation Club, Ltd., has written to the shire council, pointing out that, owing to the rush of flood water on to their property through the incapacity of the council's drains, damage had been done to their property to the extent of £50 or £60. They asked that the council should deepen the water tables on both sides of the Boulevard to Cheltenham Crescent, so that the water could get away without over-flowing on to their property. The shire clerk pointed out that the easement ran right under the club's court; and the drain had been constructed by Mr. Chorley prior to selling the property. Councillor Ramsay said that it was necessary that the council should do something; but he agreed with the suggestion that the matter stand over till the appointment of the engineer.

[*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, Saturday 9 May 1914, p. 8]

The location of this underground drain was marked on the plan of William Chorley's subdivision, being DP 5440 [Fig. 4.5 (a)]. The drainage easement (blue) ran under The Boulevard to run along the south boundary of Lot 3 and then cross Lots 3 and 1 near the eastern boundary of both residential lots, to discharge into the Carlingford Road reserve (later The Crescent). The fact that Lots 1-5 in Chorley's subdivision were low-lying and subject to inundation may be the reason why Chorley and Harris considered the land suitable ground for bowls, croquet and tennis and accordingly arranged to give this land to the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited in 1913.

Whilst the drainage problem persisted for many years, Arthur Doust and William M. Nixon, contractor and architect respectively, successfully converted the five suburban allotments into a neatly arranged complex of croquet lawn, four-rink bowling green and two grass tennis courts. The original heavily terraced layout of these facilities can be gleaned by examination of the 1943 and 1953 aerial photographs of the site [Figs. 6.1 (a) and (b)] and recently prepared site survey plans [Fig. 6.6]. Although there is no specific reference to the construction of a clubhouse in the tender notice published in August 1913, it is clear from a press report of the official opening of the grounds of the Cheltenham Recreation Club in late November 1914, that a small clubhouse had been erected by that time. A report published in the *Daily Telegraph* three days later effectively summarises the Club's achievements to date:

**BOWLS : CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB.**

About 500 people attended the official opening of the grounds of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, Limited, on Saturday. That the board of directors had done its work well was evidenced by the excellent condition of the lawns and bowling greens. Mr. C. J. Gorman, chairman of directors, welcomed the visitors, and asked Mrs. William Chorley to carry out the official opening ceremony, which she did; at the same time breaking the club's flag--a gift from Mrs. Gorman. Several games were played, the greens being pronounced capital. Afterwards the ladies entertained the visitors. The club is one of the newest in the metropolitan area, but, judging by the enthusiasm of the members, should be one of the most prosperous. It owes its existence largely to the generosity of Mr. W. H. Harris, of Cheltenham, who presented an area of land near the railway station to the district, on condition that it was turned into a suitable ground for bowls, croquet, and tennis. A company was formed, with Mr. C. H. Gorman as chairman of directors, and Mr. P. C. Greaves as secretary, and about £1000 was spent in improvements, the work being carried out by Mr. A. L. Doust, of Chatswood. A bowling green and croquet and tennis lawns have been laid down, and a clubhouse erected. The roll of membership is satisfactory, sectional committees controlling the various feature of the club's operations. [*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, Tuesday 1 December 1914, p. 9]

It is clear now that William Henry (Bill) Harris instructed W. M. Nixon to also prepare a new layout of the gardens at Edensor in the same year that A. L. Doust completed the landscaping and building works at the Cheltenham Recreation Club. In July 1914, Arthur Doust advertised in the 'Situations Vacant' column in the Sydney press for gardeners being '3 good Men, accust. landscape work, const [consult] Doust, Cheltenham Bowling Club, Chelt'ham' [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 July 1914, p. 17].

In February 1916, the Shire of Hornsby approved the plans for a 'fibro-cement shelter' on the bowling green at the Cheltenham Recreation Club ['The Building Industry' in *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 26 February 1916, p. 8]. In late 1918, W. M. Nixon & Son called tenders for further work at the CRC, to include completion of a two-rink bowling green and tennis court, the inference being that work on these facilities had already started in 1914. The notice reads:

TENDERS required for the completion of a 2-RINK BOWLING GREEN and TENNIS COURT for the Cheltenham Recreation Club, Ltd. For particulars: Apply to W. M. NIXON & SON. Architects, 163 Pitt-street, Sydney. Or at the Club House, Cheltenham.  
*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 9 November 1918, p. 12].

The drainage easement which ran through Lots 1 and 3 of Chorley's original subdivision, continued to flood, leading the CRC Committee to make further representations to the Shire of Hornsby to have the matter rectified. The Club was also concerned with the state of the roads leading to their new establishment and sought further improvements to their immediate environment in February 1924.

#### **CHEL TENHAM : SOURCE OF DANGER.**

In a letter to last meeting of Hornsby Shire Council, Cheltenham Recreation Club complained of the drainage reserve which passed through their grounds. The drain was partly open, and there was always a certain amount of stagnant water lying in it. This was a source of danger to children playing in the vicinity. The club was not in a position to fill it in. The engineer was asked to report on the matter.  
*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 24 June 1922, p. 8].

#### **HORNSBY : CHELTENHAM**

Cheltenham Recreation Club directed the attention of last meeting of Hornsby Shire Council to the state of the roads leading to their grounds. It was pointed out that visitors from other parts of the district came to the grounds, and they did so at the risk of broken motor springs, or worse. The road opposite the railway station was in a dangerous state, and the Boulevard [sic] was simply a very bad bush track. The directors of the club stressed the urgency of having improvements effected. At the instance of Councillors Chapman and Robbins, it was decided to ask the engineer to furnish a report on the matters referred to in the letter.  
*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 2 February 1924, p. 6].

In December 1925, a team of bowlers from Cheltenham in England visited Australia and on Saturday 12 December 1925, they played against the local Cheltenham team. The Sydney press reported on the 'Britain v Cheltenham' match as follows:

The official opening of the Cheltenham green was celebrated on Saturday, when three rinks of British bowlers played the local club, and also one each from the Association, Beecroft and Epping. A hearty welcome extended to the visitors by the president, Mr. W. R. Cave, was responded to by Mr. G. Wright, captain, and Mr. Walter Wake, manager of the British team. After a most interesting and close engagement, Cheltenham won by five points against the overseas players.  
[*Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 December 1925, p. 8]

On the day of the match, *The Sun* published the results of the same contest, giving the evening news that ‘at the end of fifteen heads, the British Isles and Cheltenham were 41-all’ [*The Sun*, Saturday 12 December 1925, p. 7]. A contemporary photograph of this encounter, which shows the form and construction of the CRC Clubhouse in 1925, was republished in the Sydney press at an unknown date [Fig. 6.5]. It would appear from the above reports that a new bowling green had been constructed in 1924-1925, and that the match against the English team also marked the official opening of this new bowling green. Such was confirmed when in 1926 the CRC decided to appoint a full-time greenkeeper to look after the three tennis courts, the croquet lawn and two bowling greens.

CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB Invites Applications for the position of Greenkeeper, must have knowledge of turf and its upkeep, easy position, Motor Mower. Married man preferred. By letter, A. E. PIERCE. CHELTENHAM.

[*Daily Telegraph*, 12 October 1926, p. 2]

A year later, in 1927, the CRC laid out a further tennis court on their site, and in the process conducting a carnival in aid of these works. The local press reported as follows:

#### **Cheltenham Carnival For Tennis Courts**

The beautiful grounds of the Cheltenham Recreation Club near the railway station, were rendered even more beautiful on Saturday afternoon last by a lavish display of bunting, and by the beautiful dresses of the ladies. The occasion was a carnival, in aid of the funds of the club, the special object being the raising of an amount to defray the cost of putting down a fourth tennis court. Previous experience leads the club to be confident of success, and the work is already well in hand. A number of substantial donations towards the object were received. On the bowling greens the men folk were absorbed in their task of trundling the spheres. In another part of the grounds the ladies showed that even advancing years did not prevent them handling the mallet, and even, when they got a chance, sending an opponent’s ball away to the boundary. In yet another part, tennis gave opportunity for the more energetic of both sexes. The programme for the evening included dancing in the club room music being provided by a gramophone, lent by Mrs. Buckle. Housie-housie and other games, including billiards and snooker, provided a very full programme.

[*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 4 October 1927, p. 8].

The full run of Minute Books of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited, from 1913 to 1970 have not been read in the course of preparing this Cultural History Report and Statement of Heritage Impact, however the records for the period 1954-1957, as they relate to the building of the existing ‘William H. Harris Memorial Clubhouse’, have been perused, and relevant extracts copied. Some particulars of construction of the original CRC Clubhouse in the period from 1913-1933 are recorded by Hazel Barr, a member of the Croquet Section of the CRC, in her 1991 publication *The First Twenty Years*. Relevant extracts from this source are set out below to shed more light on the way in which this pavilion was developed, initially with architectural direction, and later again through rather ad-hoc building campaigns overseen by members of the CRC. Hazel Barr first notes that:

The club was incorporated on June 27, 1913. The construction of a kitchen and room was authorised at a cost of £27. Subsequently a billiard room was added in 1917 and a croquet ladies’ room in 1929.

[H. Barr, *The First Twenty Years*, Cheltenham, 1991, p. 1]

Later in her personal account of the history of the Croquet Section, she makes reference to the Minutes of Committee meetings of the Club and explains how the original clubroom and kitchen grew over the years.

Her reference to the 'outside conveniences' is apposite, because full sewer reticulation to the CRC site fronting The Crescent at Cheltenham was not provided until the late 1950s or early 1960s. Hazel Barr's record reads:

### Emergence of the Clubhouse

The modest nature of the original clubhouse has already been described, a low cost room and kitchen. The outside conveniences which existed into the sixties are nowhere mentioned in the minutes. Club premises could not be used for meetings until the billiard room was added. Prior to 1918, meetings were held at the School of Arts or in members' homes. The final form of the old clubhouse is shown in Appendix D [See Fig. 6.3]. In the following excerpts from the Minutes, building extensions, furniture and furnishing acquisitions are highlighted by the use of italics. The terminology used to describe areas in the old building is interesting.

In 1914, the balance sheet shown as £1-11-1 from the function organised for the Opening of the Lawn was forwarded to the Secretary of the Club for use in *furnishing* the club kitchen. In January 1915, the Directors are asked to have small *seats* erected on the lawn and to grant a *clock* for convenience in the shed. The seats were deemed inadvisable and the clock granted. *Steps* to the lawn in front of the shed were asked for in August 1915. Rules were to be framed and placed in the *pavilion*. In September, members are expected to keep the *section room* in an orderly condition. In May 1916, a *cupboard* is to be purchased for the clubroom. In August, a Card Evening is held to purchase a *verandah blind*.

In December [1916], a Card Evening is held in aid of *furnishing the gentlemen's clubroom*. In September, thanks to Mr Rossiter for the *pergola* he is having erected for us, which will be much appreciated by every member to shade us during the summer weather. In September 1922, it is proposed that a *table* with *seat* along the front be put in croquet shed. In February 1923, the Directors are asked to put a *basin* and *plug* in the *ladies' room*. In April, it is proposed that a *locker* be put behind the door. There was also a raffle to provide a *seat*. In July, thanks are recorded to the donors of the *seats*, Mrs Seale and Mrs Broderick [Brodrick].

At the A.G.M. in 1928, the Directors hope to be able to improve the accommodation for members of the Croquet Section at an early date. In February 1929, there is a Card Afternoon to raise funds to *furnish the new room*. In April, a Sub-Committee is formed to take in hand the *furnishing* and *alteration* of the new room. Thanks to Mr Jonas for *linoleum*. In October, *curtain materials* are donated. A House Committee of two members each month to be appointed. The Secretary is asked to draw up a list of members.

In December 1932, three *blinds* are to be replaced. In February 1933, the Secretary is asked to obtain names of those who pay for *lockers*. In March, new *blinds* are donated. April, remove the *garbage bin* from our room. In February 1933, the Directors consent to the erection of a *verandah* from the Croquet Room. Our members subsequently write for an assurance that this will not effect a *second croquet lawn* being laid.  
[H. Barr, *The First Twenty Years*, Cheltenham, 1991, pp. 5, 6]

Later in the same tome, Hazel Barr, whose photograph can be seen in Fig. 6.2, makes reference to the construction of a 'verandah' to be built onto the clubhouse as follows:

Mrs Scott first appeared on the Committee in November 1925. She was a Selector in 1926 and 1927. She was Hon. Secretary in 1928 and a member of the winning team in the Interclub Shield. Unfortunately she was absent when the photograph was taken. She was not well at this time but became President in 1932. In this term of office she obtained permission from the Directors for a verandah to be built onto the clubhouse. She then matched pound for pound the money raised in the Section.

The project was very quickly accomplished to the satisfaction of all, but sadly Mrs Scott died two years later. We still hold her memorial plaque in the clubroom.  
[H. Barr, *The First Twenty Years*, Cheltenham, 1991, p. 8]

Sadly, the identity of ‘Mrs. Scott’ has not yet been established, but it may be Jane Bell Scott of Hunters Hill, who died in early July 1935 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 July 1935, p. 9]. The architectural character of the first Clubhouse erected at the Cheltenham Recreation Club in the period from 1913 to 1933 can be deduced from three photographs of the building taken in the period from 1925-1933 [Figs. 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5] and from two aerial photographs of the CRC site taken in 1943 and 1953 [Fig. 6.1]. These five photographs have been used to facilitate the preparation of two schematic drawings showing the site plan and building layout in 1927 and 1957, as well as the location of the small section of the original building retained for continued use as the Croquet Section Clubhouse [Fig. 6.6]. It appears from structural analysis (See 6.3.2) that this surviving section was built in two separate stages, with the Croquet Club room built in 1929 and Mrs Scott’s open verandah added in 1932-33.

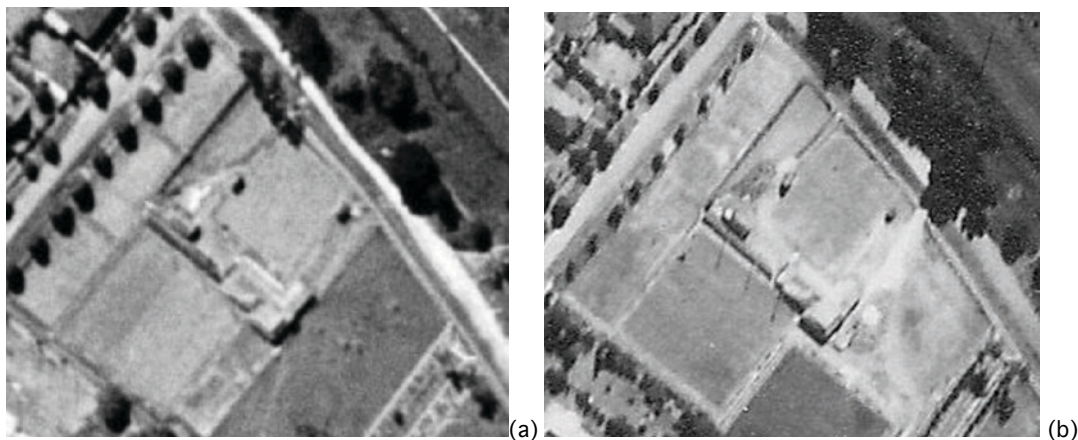


Fig. 6.1 Aerial Photographs of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Site in 1943 (a) and 1953 (b)  
[NSW Land Registry]



Fig. 6.2 ‘President’s Day 1994’: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Foundation of Croquet Section  
Hazel Barr (author) is in the front row, kneeling, on extreme left  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Archives]

The following photographs indicate that the original CRC Clubhouse was a timber-framed structure clad externally with the then fashionable James Hardie & Co.’s ‘Fibrolite’ or else Wunderlich’s ‘Durabestos’ asbestos cement sheets, finished with flat timber cover straps.





Fig. 6.3 'The Old Clubhouse' in Appendix D

The sign on the building reads 'Cheltenham Recreation Club'

The Croquet Pavilion (left end) is recorded as open on two sides, with the east side fenestrated

[H. Barr, *The First Twenty Years : A Brief History of the Cheltenham Croquet Club*, Cheltenham, 1991, p. 13]



Fig. 6.4 The Cheltenham Recreation Club Pavilion in 1933  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]



Fig. 6.5 From Newspaper Article 'Land Gift Gave Club Its Start'

Caption : 'This photograph was taken in December 1925, when bowlers from the British Cheltenham Club competed with the local Cheltenham bowlers.'

The Original Cottage/Gatehouse of Edensor can be seen in the right-distance  
[Unidentified Newspaper Cutting (February 1988) in Cheltenham Recreation Club Archives]

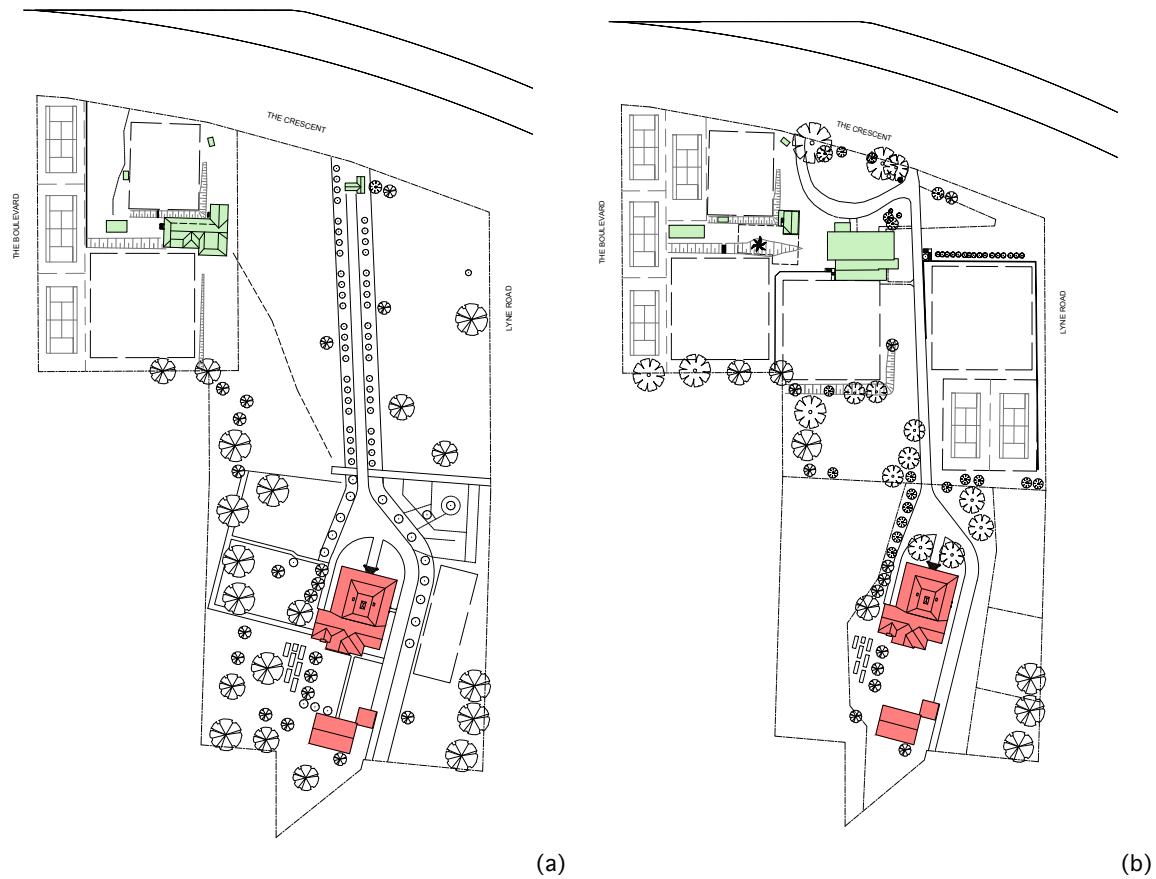


Fig. 6.6

The Original and Second Clubhouse (Green) and the Edensor Site (Red)  
Schematic Site Plans in 1927 (a) and 1957 (b)  
[S. Cremona (del) : August 2020]

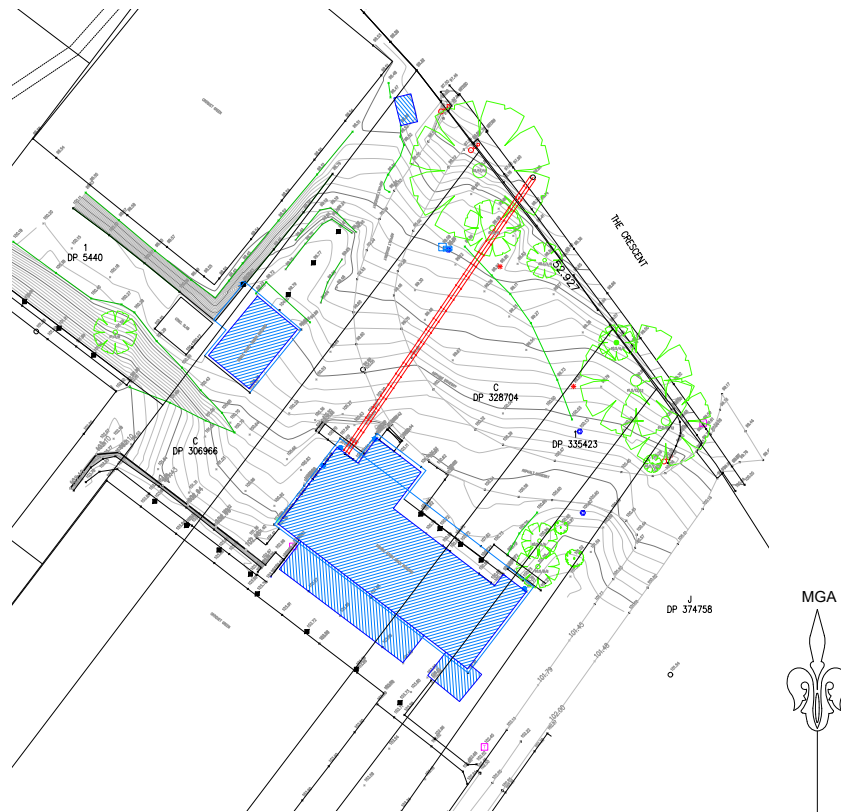


Fig. 6.7 'Detailed Survey for Proposed Development : Cheltenham Recreation Club' (June 2018)  
Showing existing location of Second Clubhouse, contours and site of Croquet Section Clubhouse  
[Total Surveying Solutions, Camden NSW 2570]



Fig. 6.8 Aerial View of Site (2018) : Same Area as Land Survey Above [Fig. 6.7]  
[SRTC : Drone Survey]





Fig. 6.9 CRC Croquet Club : Existing Clubhouse and External Camouflaged Convenience  
[Photography : S. Cremona : SRTC : November 2018]

### 6.3 The Surviving Croquet Club Pavilion : Summary History : Fabric Analysis

There is a paucity of information concerning the design, construction and use of the first CRC Clubhouse (1913-1957) and the following critical history of the origins and development of this long-lost pavilion has been prepared following examination of scant documentary evidence, Hazel Barr's brief and tenuous history of the Croquet Section of the CRC, a close examination of recent photographs of the surviving fabric and a review of professional reports relating to the existing condition of this place. At first, this building, which has been comprehensively recorded in a series of photographs taken by SRTC member Sav Cremona in November 2018 [Fig. 6.9], appears to be largely intact. However, close analysis of historical evidence as assembled in this report together with a visual inspection of photographs recording the current condition of the surviving building fabric, reveals that the Croquet Clubhouse is now a much altered relic of the first era of development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club at 60-74 The Crescent, Cheltenham.

#### 6.3.1 Summary History of Original CRC Clubhouse

The first section of the CRC Clubhouse was built in 1913-1914 as a two-room rectangular plan pavilion located on a sloping site above the original terraced croquet lawn. This shelter at first contained just a small clubroom and kitchen. The pavilion was designed by architect W. M. Nixon & Son, as part of their brief to layout the grounds of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited. It was completed before the official opening of the CRC in November 1914. It was built by Arthur L. Doust, the builder and landscape contractor otherwise engaged to shape the sloping paddocks and form up the tennis courts, bowling green and croquet lawn on land otherwise described as Lots 1-5 in DP 5440.

William Mark Nixon's concept and strategic plan for the grounds of the newly formed sporting club at Cheltenham has much merit. He has used the sloping site to advantage, excavating benches across the site to provide level ground for the croquet lawn and bowling green to be formed up as well as using the extensive excavated overburden to fill the low flood-prone ground near the corner of The Crescent and The Boulevard and make it suitable for three tennis courts. In the process, Nixon and the CRC Committee have decided to build the new clubhouse on natural sloping ground above the croquet lawn embankment and between this lawn and the upper level bowling green. This decision meant that the lightweight timber pavilion was to be located on high brick piers on the north side of the building, whilst the south side was to be constructed on dwarf brick walls with the floor level set below the playing surface of the bowling green. This matter is clearly illustrated in Fig. 6.3.

The original Clubhouse was extended and altered on a number of occasions between 1915 and 1925, likely to designs by the same architectural firm, to provide additional accommodation for an ever-expanding club membership, to include a gentlemen's clubroom, billiard room and a large skillion-roofed function room. An enclosed and regularly glazed verandah/passage was built along the long north façade of the rectangular building to facilitate access to the various sections of the pavilion. As well, a wide new verandah was constructed across the west gabled façade before 1925. In 1929 a small room was created at the east end of the pavilion for use by the Croquet Section and in 1933, an open sided pavilion was built out from the Croquet Section clubroom to provide shelter *en plein air* as well as views to the croquet lawn from an elevated covered vantage point. It appears that sanitary facilities were provided for the membership in external conveniences. The original architectural character of the first CRC Clubhouse is recorded somewhat vaguely in three photographs of the building taken in the period 1925 -1935 [Figs. 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5].



### 6.3.2 Analysis of the Original Building Fabric

In 1913-1914, the first CRC Clubhouse was built as a lightweight structure seemingly for just £27 (H. Barr, p. 1) but likely much more, with the frame being fabricated of standard timber components. The roof cladding is unknown, but likely to be standard sheets of galvanised corrugated iron fixed to battens on sloping rafters. It appears that the original ceiling lining was v-jointed timber lining boards fixed to the underside of the raked rafters as a small section of original ceiling cladding is retained in part of the existing Croquet Clubhouse kitchen and mallet room (see Fig. 6.9).

All sections of the first CRC Clubhouse were evidently clad externally with asbestos cement sheet ('fibro') panels of varying standard stock sizes and widths, with the panels arranged in accordance with geometric panelling layouts recommended by the manufacturer (either James Hardie & Company of Sydney [Fig. 6.10] or Wunderlich Limited at Cabarita and Rose Hill, Sydney). The joins of these sheets were covered with wide timber straps, typically stained a dark brown or black colour. Dark stained timber strapping was used extensively in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for architectural effect in Australian Bungalow style housing. It also seems very likely that the internal walls of the first CRC Clubhouse were also lined with the same material as it was both strong and durable and classified as a fire-retardant material. The existing internal linings have not as yet been tested for asbestos content.

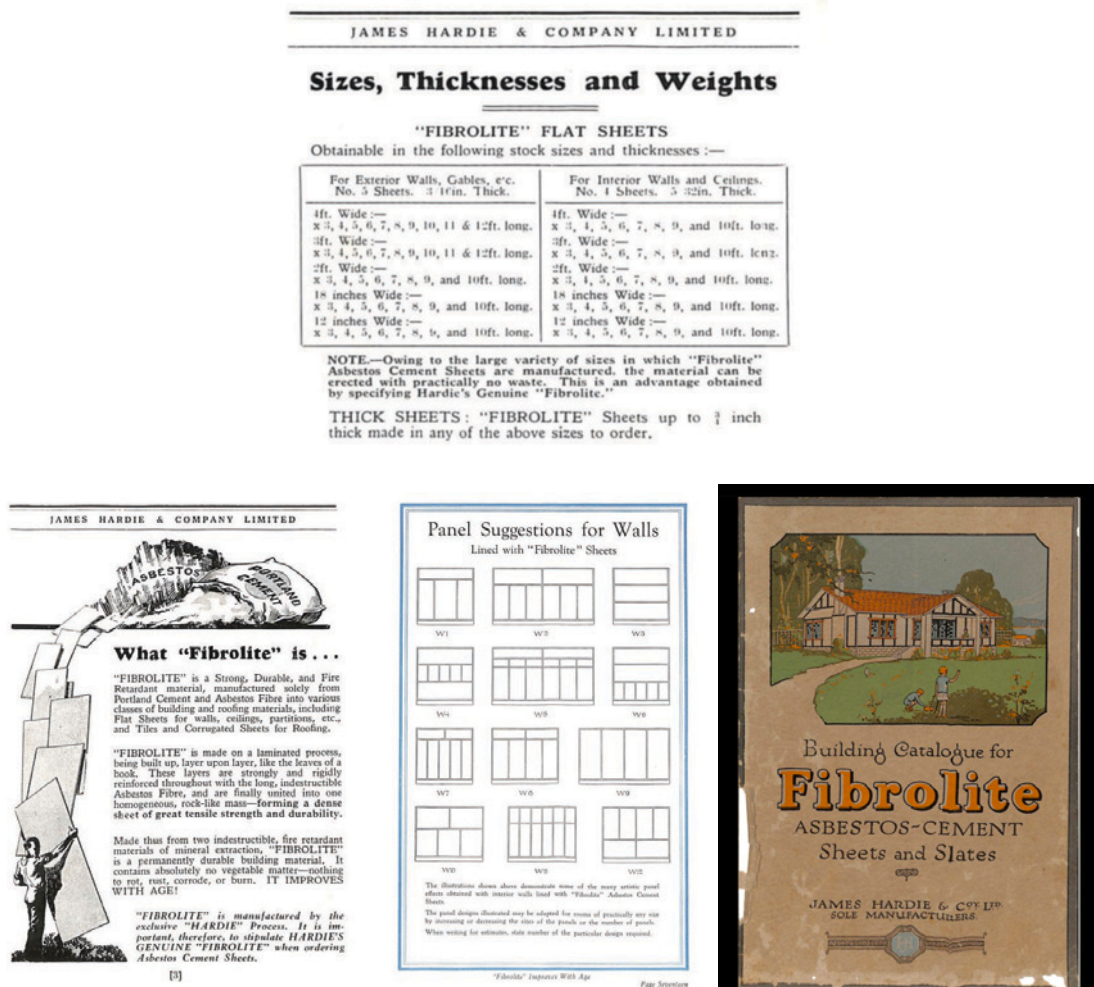


Fig. 6.10 Extracts from James Hardie & Co. Ltd 'Fibrolite' Building Catalogues (1926 and 1930) [Collection : AFW]



Whilst a recent search for contemporary building/development application records relating to the construction of the first CRC Clubhouse in the Hornsby Shire Council archives proved fruitless (building/development application records destroyed 'prior to 1956'), a similar search for building plans and other public building and health records held in NSW State Archives has been effectively curtailed by Covid-19 restrictions on travel and access to Government agencies. Nevertheless, if the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited premises were subject to NSW Department of Health public building regulations or similar legislation, there is every likelihood that a file for the property at 60-74 The Crescent, Cheltenham, is held in a public archive and that this file may contain information on both the first and second clubhouses. This is a task for another day.

An inspection of the fabric of the existing Croquet Clubhouse by Demlakian Consulting Engineers of North Sydney 2060, undertaken on 5 November 2019, and a subsequent report dated 15 November 2019, confirms that the existing building is made up of two distinct sections. The smaller section, which measures approximately 5 metres x 3 metres in width, clearly dates from 1929 when a separate room for the Croquet Section was constructed as an addition to the east end of the original clubhouse [See Fig. 6.11]. The width of this surviving section at 3 metres is half the width of the original clubhouse as erected in 1913-1914. The larger section, which measures around 5 metres x 5 metres in width, is the open verandah/shelter erected in 1932-1933 under the auspices of Mrs. Scott, then president of the Croquet Section of the CRC. This open gable-roofed pavilion is clearly identified in the photograph published in the 1991 monograph written by Hazel Barr [Fig. 6.3].

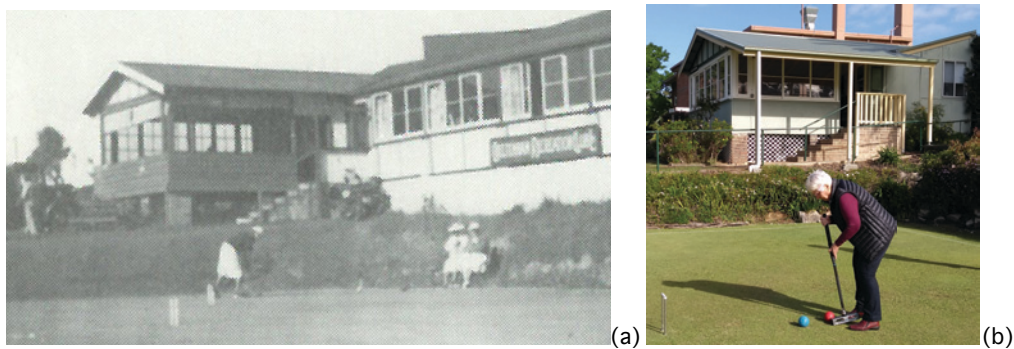


Fig. 6.11 The 1932-1933 Croquet Section Open Pavilion in c. 1933 (a) and 2019 (b)  
[H. Barr, *The First Twenty Years*, 1991, p. 13 (a) : S. Cremona, photograph in 2019 (b)]

Since 1932-1933, when the Croquet Section Pavilion was built as an addition to the original CRC Clubhouse, this structure has undergone a number of significant alterations and other functional modifications to suit changing needs. The 1933 photograph [Fig. 6.11] shows this pavilion, as first constructed, raised above a sloping ground level and supported on corner brick piers. The lower balustraded walls are evidently clad with weatherboards and the roof structure is supported on perimeter bressumers and corner posts. The end gable is typically decorated with strapwork. A scant section of original weatherboards survives near the door.

One of these decoratively shaped bressumers or edge beams survives to date as part of the east elevation structure [Fig. 6.12]. The large openings facing north and west are protected by retractable canvas blinds which likely were held down as protection against the elements when the pavilion was unoccupied by croquet players. Access to the pavilion was by means of broad brick steps with a timber handrail rising to a balustraded landing. The 1933 photograph also shows windows aligned along the east wall of the pavilion, with the six-panel window frames installed above balustrade height. These obscure glazed window frames are still in place in the now much modified pavilion [Fig. 6.12].



Fig. 6.12 Croquet Clubhouse : Details of Fenestration, Bressumer and Brick Steps (2019)  
[S. Cremona : SRTC 2019]

Following construction of the new CRC Clubhouse in the period 1954-1957, the Croquet Section arranged for part of their clubroom and all of the open pavilion annexe to be retained and modified to function as independent accommodation for croquet players. In the process, the original weatherboard cladding was removed and replaced with asbestos-cement sheets with standard flat cover straps of the same material. The open sides of the pavilion were enclosed with windows salvaged from demolition of the main section of the original clubhouse and a small part of the east end of this building was retained as the Croquet Section kitchen/mallet room. This room is lined with what appears to be asbestos cement panels with broad cover straps on the walls and v-jointed timber lining boards to the ceiling. The large room in the former pavilion has had a flat panelled ceiling installed and whilst this material has not been tested, it may be asbestos cement panels, or alternatively fibrous plaster sheets with wide flat cover straps. More information concerning the existence of hazardous asbestos-based material and lead paints is in a recent report prepared by EP Risk, 'Cheltenham Recreation Club : Limited Destructive Hazardous Materials ('HAZMAT') Assessment', Sydney, 12 February 2020.

In recent times, the original roof cladding over the pavilion and skillion section has been replaced with Colorbond corrugated sheet steel cladding and a new shelter has been built over the old brick steps. The question of the cultural significance of this structure is discussed in Section 3 : Part A.

## 6.4 William Mark Nixon (1859-1931) : Architect, Alderman, Horticulturalist



William Mark Nixon (1859-1931) : Alderman and Shire President : Shire of Hornsby

William Mark Nixon, the architect now established as being responsible for designing the first stages of development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, as well as extensive renovations to the residence and site of Edensor for William Henry Harris [II], was born at The Glebe, Sydney, on 31 May 1859, son of Scottish emigrant William Nixon (1828-1891) and his wife Jane Elliot (née Graham) [*Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 2 June 1859, p. 1]. It is otherwise held, somewhat erroneously, that William Nixon came to Australia with substantial capital (£30,000) 'from the family woollen mills but lost most of it in gold mining investments' [See BCHG entry for William Mark Nixon]. Whilst available records examined to date in Australia are silent on this matter, it is nevertheless a credible story. It is also one worth investigating, if only to establish more about the family of architect William Mark Nixon (1859-1931), a key player in the history of development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club and William Henry Harris's Edensor at Cheltenham.

We start with the Nixon family of Hawick in the Scottish Border Country, and with the firm of John Nixon and Sons, hosiers and woollen yarn manufacturers, of the Lynnwood Mills at Hawick. The Nixon Family Line to Australia has been traced through Ancestry, FamilySearch, ScotlandsPeople and Trove (NLA) as follows:

**John Nixon [I]** (1757-1812) m Mary Grieve (unknown)  
had issue at Hawick, Scotland  
**John [II]** (1783-c.1830) : Mary (1784-1791) : William (1785-1871) : Christian (1788-1869) : Joseph (1790-1842)

**John Nixon [II]** (1783-c.1830) m Phoebe Hannay (1786-1860)  
had issue  
John [III] (1821-1848) : Charles (1822-1871) : Joseph (unknown) : William (1828-1891)

**William Nixon** (1828-1891) m Jane Elliot Graham (1827-1908)  
had issue in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia  
Phoebe Kate (1850-1933) : John Graham (1854-1914) : Mary Jane (1856-1926) : William Mark (1859-1931)

**William Mark Nixon** (1859-1931) m Ada Emmeline Fox (1865-1945)  
had issue in Sydney, Australia  
William Elliot (1886-1965) : Charles Ashwin (1889-1917) : Edwin George (1891-1984) : Allen Dalrymple (1893-1975)

Fig. 6.12                      The Australian Line of the Nixon Family Tree  
[AFW : 2020]

### 6.4.1 John Nixon and Sons of the Lynnwood Mills at Hawick

John Nixon [I] (c.1757-1812), founder of the firm of John Nixon and Sons, and great-grandfather of Australian architect William Mark Nixon, evidently came to Hawick in Scotland's Border Country in 1774 to work as an apprentice to William Irvine, a linen draper.

In 1780 he commenced business as a hosiery manufacturer, initially in partnership with Irvine and another. In the same year John Nixon [I] assumed sole control of their new firm of hosiery makers to effectively found a great dynasty of woollen goods manufacturers.

Two years later he married Mary Grieve at Hawick, with banns published on 20 April 1782. They had issue four sons, Charles, John [II], Joseph, and William, and two daughters, Mary (1784-1791) and Christian (born 1788). Of the four sons, John [II] was born at Hawick on 11 March 1783, [National Records of Scotland, Old Parish Registers, Births 789/20 217], William was born at Hawick on 28 June 1785, [NRS, Old Parish Registers, Births 789/20 262] and Joseph, who was born at Hawick on 27 June 1790 [NRS, Old Parish Registers, Births 789/20 262]. Despite an intensive search, Mary Grieve remains an enigma in the Nixon family.

Three sons were destined to join their father in his burgeoning woollen mill in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, there is currently very little biographical information available for the eldest son, Charles Nixon, despite a penetrating search of Ancestry files and the British Newspaper Archives. William Nixon (1785-1871), of Lynnwood House and the wealthy proprietor of Lynnwood Mills at Hawick, refers to his enigmatic brother Charles, making him a beneficiary of his will (made in 1870).

John Nixon [I] first operated as a hosier and woollen yarn manufacturer from premises in High Street, Hawick, living above his stocking manufactory until 1803, when he moved to a new site he had purchased from the Duke of Buccleuch at Lynnwood. There, Nixon built the first section of a modern and efficient mill, complete with a Scottish *cauld* (causeway) diverting water from the Slitrig River to feed the steam boilers and power the mill machinery [Fig. 6.13]. Stone for the mill buildings came from a quarry close by the mill site. Nixon family patriarch John Nixon [I] died in 1812 and at least three sons, John [II] (age 29 years), William (age 27 years) and Joseph (age 22 years), then took charge of management of the firm of John Nixon and Sons and the operation of their Lynnwood Mill on the Slitrig River.

John Nixon [II] left the firm at an early date to set up on his own account in partnership with William McKie, trading as ‘Nixon & M’Kie’. Following Nixon’s death around 1830, his widow Phoebe (née Hannay) and her three young sons, Charles, John [III] and William went to live with her Hannay family at Nottingham. The firm of Nixon and M’Kie continued to flourish at Hawick and the eldest son, John [III] joined the firm as a partner around 1839.

Joseph Nixon died at Hawick, on 10 March 1842 at the age of 52 years [*Nottingham Review*, 25 March 1842, p. 4]. At this time he was still a partner in the firm of John Nixon & Sons and evidently a widower without issue. He died with estate tallied at £6,302 odd and examination of his Deed of Settlement dated 18 December 1841 confirms that Joseph Nixon left the majority of his estate to his brother William Nixon in a Copartnership Agreement of even date.

John Nixon [III], eldest son of John Nixon [II] and Phoebe Hannay, died at Nottingham on 28 August 1848 at the age of 30 years [*Nottingham Review*, 1 September 1848, p. 4]. His estate was valued at £2,261 odd, being his half share of the business sold to his surviving partner William McKie. His Deed of Settlement (Will) is dated 5 October 1847, with a codicil dated 27 December in the same year. He died unmarried and without issue. He granted his mother Phoebe Nixon (née Hannay) or Astill (remarried name) the interest on £1,000 invested for her lifetime, with the remainder of his estate equally divided between his brothers William Nixon (1828-1891) and Charles Nixon (1822-1871) [National Records of Scotland Ref SC62/44/16 : John Nixon].



A further search reveals that Charles Nixon, the second son of John and Phoebe Nixon was born on 30 September 1822 in London and was baptised nearly a month later at the Parish Church of St. Luke, Old Street, Finsbury, London [FHL Nos. 585440 to 585442].

Charles Nixon (1822-1871), a solicitor of Leeds, married Mary Henrietta Sanderson, daughter of a solicitor, at St George’s Church, Leeds, on 2 July 1851 [*Nottinghamshire Guardian*, 3 July 1851, p. 4] and that he died at Nottingham on 1 June 1871 at the age of 50 years [*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Advertiser*, 3 June 1871, p. 8]. John Nixon [III] (1821-1848) mentions in his Will in 1848 that he had a brother Charles, a solicitor, who had lived in Nottingham with his mother for many years and moved to Leeds in 1848.

Phoebe Nixon, a widow, married William Astill at Radford, Nottingham, on 13 June 1831 [*Nottingham Review*, 17 June 1831, p. 3]. William Astill operated as an ironmonger at Nottingham in partnership with John Sleight Hedderly until October 1846, when their partnership was dissolved. Astill continued to trade in his own name (Astill & Co.) at Lenton, Nottingham, as ‘husbandry instrument makers’ until November 1847 when he petitioned for bankruptcy [*Leeds Times*, 13 November 1847, p. 2]. Phoebe Astill died on 29 April 1860 ‘at the residence of her son, Mr. Charles Nixon, solicitor, Nottingham, aged 64’ [*Nottinghamshire Guardian*, 8 May 1860, p. 8].

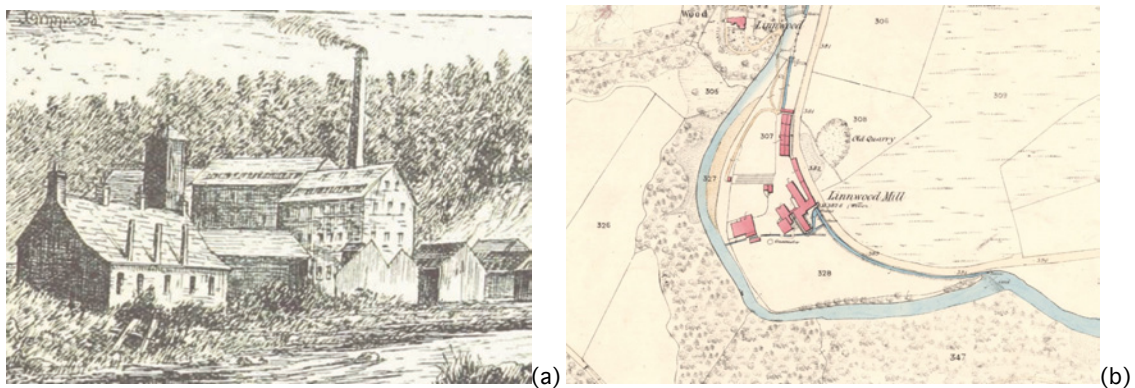


Fig. 6.13 ‘Lynnwood Mills’ in 1887 (a) and Plan of Linnwood Mill and Linnwood House (b) [National Library of Scotland]

#### 6.4.2 William and Jane Nixon (née Elliot) of Lynnwood House, Hawick

As mentioned above, William Nixon (1785-1871) was employed at an early age in his father’s hosiery factory and following the death of John Nixon [I] in 1812, William and Joseph Nixon assumed control of the Lynnwood Mill on the Slitrig River, south of the town of Hawick. Their eldest brother John [II] was also involved for some time and later opted to trade in the same industry on his own account as Nixon & McKie, but the year when he left the firm of John Nixon and Sons is not yet reliably established. Nor is the date of his death, which must have occurred in the period 1828 to 1831, between the birth of his youngest son, William, and his widow Phoebe Nixon (née Hannay) marrying William Astill at Nottingham in June 1831.

William Nixon, who had overseen the introduction of technologically superior carding and spinning machinery into their ever expanding factories at Lynnwood and Walter’s Wynd in the 1820s, assumed sole control of the family business in 1842 and thereafter continued to expand the premises of the Lynnwood Mills on the Slitrig River. He held sway in the woollen industry at Hawick for more than twenty years before selling the company in 1864 and retiring to his ‘mansion house’ Lynnwood [See Fig. 6.13].

In the late 1850s, Nixon was heavily involved in the campaign to construct a railway line from Carlisle and Langholm to Hawick as well as investing in the company formed to undertake the project. In 1864, William Nixon sold the business and extensive premises of John Nixon & Sons to the rival firm of William Laidlaw & Sons, whereupon Thomas Laidlaw ceased production of hosiery and adapted the mills to carry out more yarn spinning. A large fire damaged the Lynnwood Mill in 1869, but the ageing plant and equipment continued in production until 1909, when the Lynnwood Mills finally closed.

In 1921, the valuable site on the Slitrig River was cleared to make way for a housing development. The rise and ultimate fall of this ‘modern’ estate is another story. After a prolonged illness, William Nixon died at Lynnwood on 10 October 1871, leaving an estate tallied at £87,690 for duty purposes. His demise attracted the attention of the English and Scottish press, and informative obituaries were published to record his achievements as a pioneer woollen goods manufacturer in the Border Country of Scotland.

HAWICK.—*Death of Mr Nixon, Lynwood.*—Mr William Nixon, one of the oldest and best known inhabitants of Hawick, died at his mansion-house of Lynwood on Tuesday afternoon, at the age of eighty-seven [sic]. His father, Mr John Nixon, commenced the manufacture of hosiery nearly a century ago, shortly after its introduction to the town by Bailie John Hardy in 1771. Mr William Nixon went into partnership with his father and his brother, and the firm John Nixon & Sons only ceased to exist a few years ago, when the subject of this notice, then the sole surviving partner, retired from business. Mr Nixon was a Conservative in politics, but one of the foremost men in the district in the promotion of improvements. His private charities were liberal. He contributed munificently to the Free Church, of which he was an office-bearer. Mr Nixon was married, but had no children, and his widow survives him.

[*The Scotsman*, Thursday 12 October 1871, p. 2]

In another long tribute published in the *Kelso Chronicle*, it was observed, inter alia, that:

A contemporary, in noticing the death of Mr Nixon, says he was in his eighty-sixth year of age, and was the oldest representative of the woollen trade in the district of Hawick. He was the sole proprietor of the late firm of John Nixon & Sons, hosiers. He built the extensive mills at Lynnwood, where he carried on, on an extensive scale, the manufacturing of woollen yarns. He retired from business a few years ago, and resided in the beautiful villa which he erected on the west bank of the Slitrig.

[*Kelso Chronicle*, 13 October 1871, p. 2]

Examination of William Nixon’s Will dated 24 May 1869, as well as several Codicils to his original Deed of Settlement, reveals that the majority of William Nixon’s estate passed to his widow, Jane Nixon (née Elliot), although he did provide initially for a substantial legacy of £10,000 to his nephew ‘William Nixon or failing him to my niece Jane Graham or Nixon his spouse’. In a first codicil to his Will, Nixon stated that he had already cancelled a promissory note for £500 from William Nixon of Sydney or thereabouts and made a present of this amount, and since the date of his original Deed of Settlement [May 1869], he had ‘remitted to the said William Nixon as presents two further sums of one thousand pounds each thus making in all the sum of three thousand pounds which he has received from me’ [National Records of Scotland : Wills and Testaments : William Nixon, SC62/44/51]. In a further codicil dated 28 January 1870, Nixon noted that as he had made a further advance of £1,000 on his legacy to his nephew William Nixon of Sydney, he reduced the sum to be paid to him upon his demise to £6,000. In his later codicil dated 27 May 1870, he noted that he had already paid several legacies to stated recipients, including to ‘my nephew William Nixon or to his wife Jane Graham or Nixon or to their issue’, and directed his trustees to not pay any further sums to the recipients so listed.



It is safe to conclude that by the time of William Nixon’s death in October 1871, his nephew William Nixon in Sydney had already received legacies or presents totalling £10,000 and that Nixon had used this large sum to build a large villa in Arundel Terrace, The Glebe, named ‘Lynnwood’, and to invest in property in the neighbourhood. In any case, Nixon felt obliged to acknowledge the death of his uncle in the Australian press, inserting the following notice in the *Empire* in December 1871:

On 10<sup>th</sup> October, at Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland, William Nixon Esq., of Lynnwood, age 86 years, uncle to Mr. William Nixon, Argyle-terrace, Glebe.  
[*Empire*, 28 December 1871, p. 1]

William Nixon’s widowed aunt, Jane Elliot or Nixon died on 26 September 1877 at Lynnwood, leaving an estate to the value of £76,733 odd to be distributed amongst her immediate family, household staff, Hawick institutions such as the Free Library, the Free Church of Scotland at Hawick, and local charitable organisations [National Records of Scotland, 1877, Wills and Testaments Reference SC62/44/62]. Close examination of this Deed of Settlement dated 14 February 1876, with two further codicils dated 5 October 1876 and 17 July 1877, reveals that inter alia, Jane Nixon of Lynnwood, Hawick, left a legacy of £5,000 to Mary Henrietta Nixon, the widow of her nephew Charles Nixon, and that twelve months after her death, her trustees were ‘to make payment to William Nixon residing in or near Sydney nephew of my late husband whom failing to Jane Graham or Nixon his spouse whom both failing to their lawful issue’ the sum of £10,000. She also left £500 to William Nixon son of William Nixon of Sydney.

In her first codicil, Jane Nixon revoked the instructions for her trustees to pay £10,000 to William Nixon ‘residing in or near Sydney’ on the grounds that she had already remitted that sum to him by 5 October 1876. As well, Jane Elliot Nixon left her late husband’s watch and appendages to ‘William Nixon Junior’ of Sydney, jewellery to Jane Nixon or Graham and a silver salver to her late husband’s nephew William Nixon. Her passing was also noted in the Sydney press as follows:

NIXON.—September 27, at Hawick, Roxburghshire [sic], Jane Elliot, relict of the late William Nixon, Esq., of Lynnwood, and aunt of Mr. W. Nixon, Ashfield, in her 87th year.  
[*Evening News*, 17 November 1877, p. 4]

#### 6.4.3 William and Jane Elliot Nixon (née Graham) in Australia

William Nixon, the aforementioned father of architect William Mark Nixon, was born at Hawick, County Roxburghshire, in the Scottish Border Country in 1828, the second son of hosier and woollen yarn manufacturer John Nixon [II] (1783-?) and his wife Phoebe (née Hannay) (1786-1860). Nixon and Hannay were married at the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Nottingham, on 11 September 1815. Phoebe Hannay was the elder sister of William Hannay (1798-1862), a prominent hosiery manufacturer of Nottingham. William Hannay’s tragic death by accidental drowning in a grim shipping accident near the harbour of Creux, on the Channel Island of Sark, on 19 August 1862, attracted great press coverage in England [*Nottingham Guardian*, 29 August 1862, p. 3].

William Nixon and Jane Elliot Graham were married at Teviot Square, Hawick, County Roxburgh, Scotland, on 18 May 1849, with William Nixon recorded in the Scottish press as a lace agent then hailing from Nottingham [*Nottingham Review*, 24 March 1848, p. 5]. Having earlier determined to emigrate to Australia, William borrowed £500 from his uncle William Nixon (1785-1871), then the sole proprietor of the Lynnwood Mills at Hawick.

The young couple boarded the 550-ton clipper ship Duke of Bronte at the Plymouth Docks on 26 May, bound for Adelaide and Port Phillip [*The Shipping and Mercantile Gazette*, London, 28 May 1849, p. 2.] They disembarked at Hobson’s Bay on 16 October and took up residence in Stephen Street (later named Exhibition Street), Melbourne [*Argus*, 17 October 1849, p. 2].

Their first daughter Kate Phoebe Nixon was born in Melbourne on 15 November 1850 and baptised at Scot’s Church in Collins Street on 18 December. She was given the name of Phoebe after her maternal grandmother, Phoebe Hannay. Her father’s occupation was listed on her birth certificate as ‘gentleman’ by the Rev. Irving Hetherington, the celebrant [BDM Victoria, 1850/9009]. This classification points to the fact that William Nixon was an emigrant of independent means. By way of corroboration, William Nixon, a ‘gentleman’, of Stephen Street, Melbourne, was robbed by a ‘London pickpocket’ whilst attending the Land Sales in Melbourne on 16 May 1850 [*Port Phillip Gazette*, 18 May 1850, p. 2].

The Nixon family departed Melbourne on 4 September 1851 and eight days later ‘Mr Nixon, Wife & Daughter’ arrived at Port Jackson in New South Wales aboard the barque King William [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 September 1851, p. 4]. Almost immediately, they boarded the 64-ton schooner Lavina, bound for Moreton Bay, where they spent a year in unknown pursuits. They returned to Sydney on the last day of February 1852 aboard the coastal schooner Toroa [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 September 1851, p. 2, and *The Shipping Gazette*, 28 February 1852, p. 61]. Six weeks later, William Nixon published the following announcement in the Sydney press, likely acting as an agent of his stepfather William Astill, who operated as an ironmonger at Nottingham after his 1847 bankruptcy:

TO THE LADIES OF SYDNEY : And Arrivals from England.  
WILLIAM NIXON, FURNISHING IRONMONGER, 13, Hunter Street, begs most respectfully to intimate that he has opened a shop opposite the Empire Office, where everything required for domestic purposes may be obtained at the most reasonable prices. The STOCK being ENTIRELY NEW, offers a good opportunity to parties furnishing.  
[*The People’s Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator*, 10 April 1852, p. 2]

A son, John Graham Nixon (1854-1914), was born at Alexandria in suburban Sydney on 2 March 1854, to effectively confirm that they had taken up permanent residence in New South Wales at that time [BDM NSW, Births 1854/61258]. Another daughter, Mary Jane, was born at their residence in Glebe Road on 22 July 1856 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 July 1856, p. 1]. Their next son, William Mark Nixon, was born at The Glebe on 31 May 1859, followed by a daughter Jessie Elizabeth Nixon on 21 October 1861 [BDM NSW 1861/2896 and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 October 1861, p. 1].

It seems likely that William Nixon built a large two-storey brick residence fronting Arundel Terrace, The Glebe, in the mid-1850s, using capital advanced to him by his wealthy uncle at Hawick. Whilst I cannot find any detailed references to the design and construction of this place in the usual architectural history sources, it was later described as overlooking St John’s College in the University of Sydney and being surrounded by enclosed verandahs, with a lawn and aviary to the rear, and a paved yard leading to stables and coach-house [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 November 1874, p. 12]. The Nixon family quit this property in late 1873, at which time William Nixon advertised Lynnwood for sale as follows:

FOR SALE, LYNNWOOD, Arundel-terrace, opposite University, substantially built detached family Residence, replete with every convenience. Gas and water laid on, two-stall stable, coachhouse, &c. Apply on the premises.  
[*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 October 1873, p. 9]

In February 1878, George Smith Owen, as manager, made application to register the Wiseman’s Creek Mining Company (Limited), a new venture formed to mine gold at Wiseman’s Creek in the Parish of Jocely, County Westmoreland. The nominal capital of this company was £3,600 in shares of £1 each. William Nixon of Lynnwood, Bland Street, Ashfield, took up 600 shares in the company to effectively own one-sixth of the limited company [*New South Wales Government Gazette*, 5 February 1878 (No. 41)]. The company was re-registered under the same name in May 1886, at which time William Nixon took up a total of 6,000 £1 shares [*Globe*, 17 May 1886, p. 2]. There is seemingly no evidence to hand to suggest that the company went into liquidation in the 1890s, although another company, the Wiseman’s Creek Silver-Mining Company went into receivership in 1887.

In October 1878, at the Barnet family residence ‘Braeside’ in Ross Street, Forest Lodge, John Graham Nixon, the eldest son of William and Jane Elliot Nixon, married Lilia Barnet, eldest daughter of Scottish émigré James Johnstone Barnet (1827-1904), Colonial Architect in New South Wales [*Evening News*, 28 October 1878, p. 2]. Through this family connection, the youngest son, William Mark Nixon, was to gain employment as an articled pupil in Barnet’s highly productive, influential, yet troubled architectural office in Sydney. But for a shattering personal conflict between John and Lilia Nixon, William Mark ‘Will’ Nixon may have pursued a stellar career in the New South Wales public service initially under J. J. Barnet’s patronage. Instead, he was forced to set up on his own account as an architect in 1893.

In November 1894, and after a troubled marriage, John Graham Nixon, then an accountant with a major insurance company, finally petitioned for divorce on the grounds of Lilia’s desertion and adultery with George Beresford, an auctioneer. The action went uncontested and a *decree nisi* was granted in November 1894, and made *absolute* six months later, in May 1895 [*Australian Star*, 28 May 1895, p. 5]. They likely had issue three daughters, Lilia Graham Barnet Nixon (born 1879), who married in 1906, Amy Irene Josephine Barnet Nixon (born 1884) and married 1901, and Rosa Elaine Nixon (died in infancy in April 1887).

William Nixon, the somewhat enigmatic patriarch and financier of the Hawick Nixon family in Australia, died at his residence ‘Lynnwood’ in Bland Street, Ashfield, on 10 November 1891 at the age of 63 years [BDM NSW, 1891/2773 and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 November 1891, p. 1] and was interred in the Necropolis the following day. His real and personal estate was valued at £12,039 for probate purposes [NSW Index to Deceased Estate Files 1859-1958, Index Card 107236].

#### 6.4.4 William Mark Nixon : Architectural Career

William Mark Nixon’s life and career as an architect, alderman and president of the newly formed Shire of Hornsby (1908 and 1909), community leader and prominent horticulturalist, has been charted by the Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group in their well-referenced biography (2015) published on their website [‘William Mark Nixon’ on [www.bchg.org.au](http://www.bchg.org.au)]. Therein, it is recorded that:

Many of the solid, well built homes of Beecroft and Cheltenham were designed by William Nixon, in various styles according to their owners’ taste. Some were of a conservative plan of the traditional central passageway, others were in the ‘Arts and Crafts’ style, with both internal plan and external details of modern fashion. The two houses he built in Malton Road were interesting architecturally. Before coming to Beecroft he had had wide experience in house design of the ‘Queen Anne’ style (or ‘Federation’ as it came to be known later).

He also designed the Presbyterian Church in Waverley, the large South African War Memorial in Gundagai in 1900, the Crago flour mills in Newtown, additions to the Soup Kitchen in Kent Street, Sydney, a terrace of five houses in Darlinghurst, a drill hall in Randwick and a new ward at the Western Suburbs Hospital. The building contractor who often worked with Nixon's firm of architects was Arthur Slingsby, who also made his home in Beecroft in 1903. In Beecroft William Nixon designed the second St John's Church in 1907 and the Presbyterian Church in 1908.

Of some interest to this investigation is the fact that the above-mentioned Arthur Slingsby, of 'Carholme', Copeland Street, Beecroft, died on 14 July 1913 and just before the Cheltenham Recreation Club project came to public notice [*Daily Telegraph*, 15 July 1913, p. 6]. His widow, Susana, died in the same year, on 1 November 1913. Arthur Slingsby was well-known in the Beecroft-Cheltenham area 'where he closely identified himself with the interests of the district' [*Daily Telegraph*, 25 July 1913, p. 8]. Slingsby had been a member of the Carlingford branch of the Public Schools Board, along with William Mark Nixon and William Chorley [*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 25 May 1907, p. 4] and served for a time as president of the Beecroft School of Arts. He was bankrupted in 1894 and lost his joinery workshop at Redfern in a ravaging fire in June 1905. Nevertheless, Slingsby had a productive business in the suburbs of the Shire of Hornsby and built a number of houses in the burgeoning Beecroft/Cheltenham area.

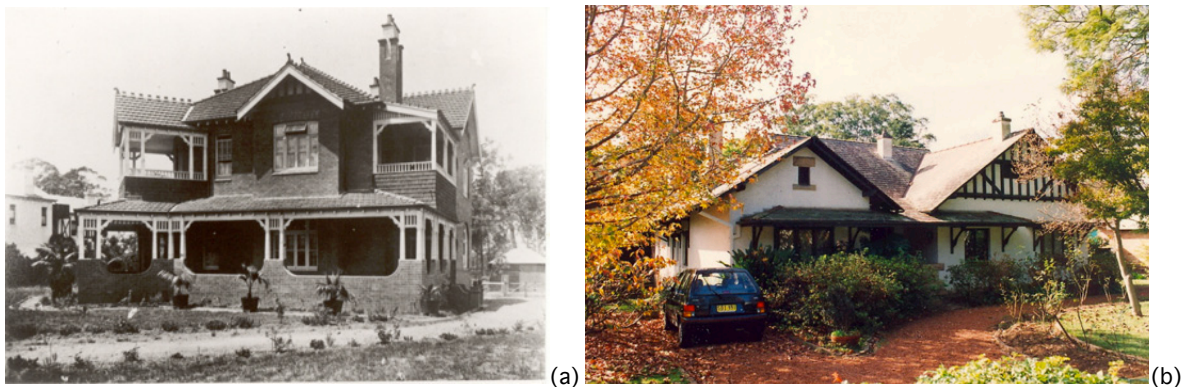


Fig. 6.14 W. M. Nixon Family Houses in Malton Road, Beecroft  
'Lynnwood' [III] at 12 Malton Road (a)  
and 'Lynnwood' [IV], later 'Kunaware' at 11 Malton Road (b)

William Mark Nixon, then an architectural draftsman of Ashfield, married Ada Emmeline Fox, daughter of Samuel Fox, Clerk in Holy Orders, and his wife Elizabeth Jane Shelley, at the School-Church of St James' Anglican Church, Croydon, in accordance with the rites of the Church of England, on 18 May 1886. The bride's father was the celebrant. William and Ada Nixon had issue five sons, four of whom survived to adulthood, namely William Elliot (1886-1965), Charles Ashwin, died on Active Service (1889-1917), Edwin George (1891-1984) and Allen Dalrymple (1893-1975).

The family settled in Beecroft in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and W. M. Nixon built a substantial Federation Free Style villa at 12 Malton Road in c. 1905 (named 'Lynnwood' after hosiery William Nixon's mansion in Hawick in Roxburghshire (spelt 'Lynnwood' in the Scottish press and 'Linnwood' on Ordnance Survey maps, not 'Lynwood'). Charles Ashwin Nixon joined his father in practice by 1910, at which time W. M. Nixon had commenced construction on a new Arts & Crafts style villa, opposite Lynnwood at 11 Malton Road [Fig. 6.14 (b)]. The design of this family residence is attributed to Charles Nixon.

Recent research has established a great deal more information concerning the achievements of William Mark Nixon to include background information relating to his career in the Colonial Civil Service in Sydney and his first years in architectural practice on his own account. Now, there is also much more information to hand concerning ‘Will’ Nixon’s influential involvement with the Cheltenham Recreation Club. W. M. Nixon’s departure from the NSW Public Service was recorded in the NSW *Government Gazette* in October 1893, wherein a notice was published advising that William M. Nixon, draftsman, Existing Lines Branch, Department of Railways, had retired from the Civil Service under the provisions of the *Civil Service Act 1884* [New South Wales *Government Gazette*, 13 October 1893 (No. 718), p.7998].

Several months before this notice was published, twenty-four year-old Will Nixon had evidently formed a partnership with Alfred Allen, son of the prominent State politician of the same name from Waverley, under the banner of Nixon and Allen, Architects. Whilst it is held that he commenced practice on his own account with just £30 to his name [BCHG : ‘William Mark Nixon’], it is clear that he had earlier inherited £500 from his great-aunt, Jane Elliot Nixon of Hawick. At the outset, they operated from offices at 127 King Street, Sydney. One of their first jobs involved the erection of four shops at Bondi and a residence at Chatswood, tenders for both projects being advertised in May 1893 [*Daily Telegraph*, 20 May 1893, p. 11].

A search of Sydney newspapers for the period 1893-1901 reveals that, despite an economic depression in NSW and Victoria, Nixon and Allen built up a productive architectural practice in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, rising gradually to prominence in the Sydney community and at places such as Gundagai and Wentworth Falls. In 1898, the partners moved to new offices in Hoffnung’s Building in Pitt Street. The partnership was dissolved in January 1901, with W. M. Nixon remaining at their office in Hoffnung’s Building, whilst Alfred Allen took up accommodation in Vickery’s Chambers nearby at 82 Pitt Street, Sydney [*Building, Engineering & Mining Journal*, 2 February 1901].

Allen’s practice was sustained by several commissions from the Bank of New South Wales for new banks in many country centres in N.S.W. During World War I, Allen, a pacifist, closed his practice in Sydney and went to Europe to work with the Society of Friends (Quakers) and to look after refugees in Holland. He later moved to London to attend to the welfare of Australian servicemen invalided from the French battlefields to medical institutions in London [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 January 1917, p. 6]. Alfred Allen never returned to architecture, instead pursuing a career with the Australian War Graves Commission at Poperinghe in Belgium and thereafter continuing his work with the Society of Friends in England and South Africa. He died in England in October 1936 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 January 1937, p. 7].

Following the break-up of the Nixon/Allen partnership, William Mark Nixon entered into partnership with John Shedden Adam (1868-1941), a Sydney architect, to operate as Nixon and Allen, architects, of 163 Pitt Street, Sydney. Early on, they won a competition to design a new hospital at Gundagai in November 1901 [*Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser*, 29 November 1901, p. 2] and another for the Soldiers’ Memorial in the same place in 1902 [Fig. 6.15]. Subsequently, these two architects forged a reputation as skilful architects working in the mainstream of architectural practice in New South Wales. A search of Trove newspaper files in Sydney for the period 1901-1908 reveals that Nixon and Adam ran a very busy practice and were actively engaged in the design of rural homesteads, suburban residences, villas and cottages, as well as bank premises and commercial building developments for clients such as David Jones (shops, factories and offices).



They also were responsible for the design and construction of a number of churches at Mosman (1901) [Fig. 6.15] and Orange (1907), as well as a Presbyterian Church (1908) and additions to the School of Arts at Beecroft (1908) [Fig. 6.15]. The church at Mosman was opened in December 1903, with much of the original tower and other architectural detail missing, no doubt removed on economic grounds [See *Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 16 December 1903, p. 1580, for a photograph of the church as built].

In June 1908, the practice of Nixon and Adam was dissolved, leaving W. M. Nixon to form a new practice with his nineteen year-old son Charles, under the banner of W. M. Nixon & Son. J. S. Adam went on to form another partnership with Joseph Porter Power, late of the prominent Sydney firm of Sulman and Power [*Daily Telegraph*, 24 June 1908, pp. 3 and 11]. Later still, in 1938, Adam joined up with the old firm of Wright and Apperly, adding his name to the partnership of Adam, Wright and Apperly. More on this firm later. John Shedden Adam died some three years later, at Turramurra, on 26 March 1941. His demise was noted in the Sydney press as follows:

**MR. J. S. ADAM.**

The death has occurred of Mr. John Shedden Adam, of Messrs. Adam, Wright, and Apperly, architects, and honorary architect for the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales. He designed many churches and church schools in this State. Mr. Adam was vice-president of and honorary architect for the Home for Incurables, Ryde, and a member of the council of the Sydney City Mission. He is survived by his widow, four sons, and four daughters.

[*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 March 1941, p. 10]

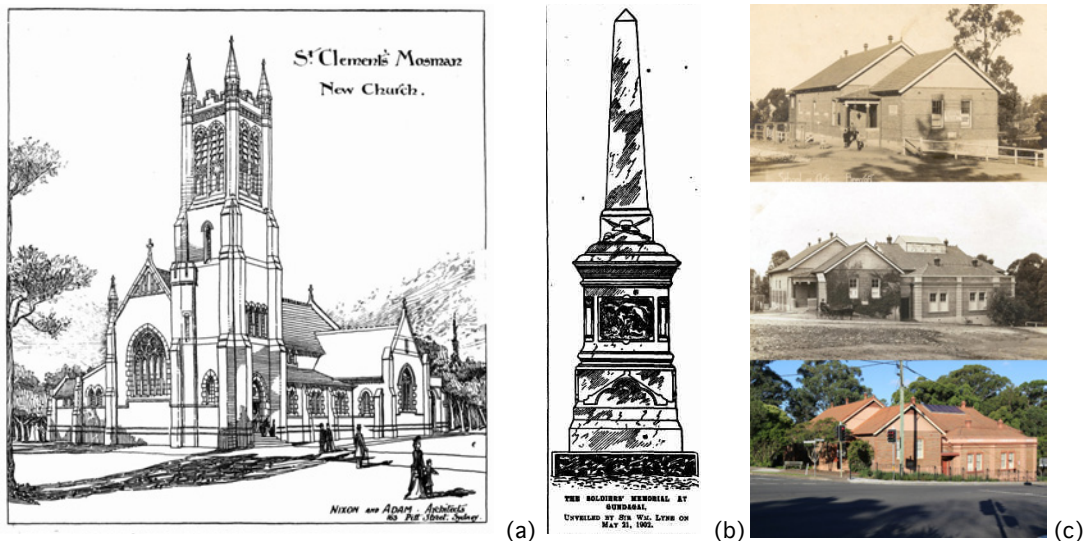


Fig. 6.15 'St Clement's Mosman New Church' : Nixon and Adam, Architects (a)  
[*Sydney Mail*, 6 July 1901, p. 37]

'The Soldiers' Memorial at Gundagai' (b)  
[*The Gundagai Times*, 3 June 1902, p. 2]

The Beecroft School of Arts : Three Stages of Development (c)  
[Hornsby Shire, 'Beecroft School of Arts/Beecroft Community Centre Then and Now']

William Mark Nixon, and his talented son, Charles Ashwin Nixon, were both involved with the development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club from its inception in 1913, when the firm designed both the layout of the grounds and the original timber clubhouse. It was one of a number of projects handled by the father-son partnership in the Shire of Hornsby in the years leading up to the First World War in July 1914.



C. A. Nixon, like so many patriotic young men in Australia, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (A.I.F.) at the Victoria Barracks in Sydney on 20 December 1915, at which time he attested that he was educated at Newington College, had gained two Technical College Certificates and a Junior Exam Pass at the University of Sydney, and was an architect, having spent his articles in his father's practice. He attended the Engineers Officers School at Moore Park and spent time as an instructor at the Engineers Depot before applying for a commission in the A.I.F., on 15 June 1916. He was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant at the end of June 1916 and was sent to England aboard HMAT *Euripides* in early September, to disembark at Plymouth on 26 October 1916.

Charles Ashwin Nixon was sent to France on 11 May 1917, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in August 1917, spent time in England on R&R on two occasions and during the height of the conflict with German forces in August-September 1918, he died at a machine gun post on the battlefields near Peronne. Lieutenant C. A. Nixon was interred nearby in the Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension three days later [National Archives of Australia, NAA-B2455 : 'Nixon, Charles Ashwin']. His death was briefly noted in the local press in October 1918 and just four weeks from Armistice Day (11 November 1918) [*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 12 October 1918, p. 8].

His brother, Edwin George Nixon, a 'station overseer', also enlisted in the A.I.F. in December 1915, and likewise spent time on the French battlefields with the rank of corporal and acting-sergeant. E. G. Nixon was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre for distinguished service [*London Gazette*, 16 July 1918], to return to Australia with the rank of lieutenant in 1919 [NAA : B2455 'Nixon, Edwin George']. The youngest son, Allen Dalrymple Nixon, a 'farmer', was the first of the three Nixon brothers to enlist, joining the A.I.F. as a private in June 1915 and being posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Brigade. He also served time at war in France, was wounded in action but remained on duty, suffered several bouts of influenza in the 1918 pandemic, and returned to Australia in April 1919 [NAA : B2455 'Nixon, Allen Dalrymple'].

Charles Ashwin Nixon's premature death in France cut short a highly promising career as an architect in New South Wales. Prior to his enlistment in December 1915, C. A. Nixon had responsibility for the design of a number of small houses, villas and bungalows in suburban Sydney in the latest architectural styles, to include a neat Federation Arts & Crafts bungalow 'Highbury' at 20 Martin Road, Centennial Park, and the Nixon family's own bungalow, again named 'Lynnwood', at 11 Malton Road, Beecroft. Both bungalows were designed in 1912-1913 [Fig. 6.16]. In 1915, W. M. Nixon and Son were recorded as being the architects responsible for the design and construction of the new Hornsby Shire Offices at a cost of £1,700. The brick building was described as being 'of the bungalow type and one story in height' with the main entrance vestibule being 'supported by four pillars in the Doric order' [*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 6 November 1915, p. 8].

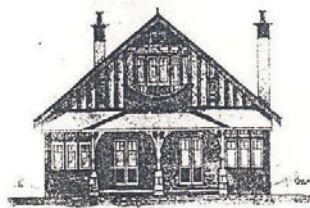


Fig. 6.16 'Highbury' at 20 Martin Road, Centennial Park : Later known as the 'Patrick White House'  
W. M. Nixon & Son, Architects : William Kerr (original owner)  
[NSW Office of Heritage & Environment : Patrick White House : State Heritage Register 01719]

The picturesque Federation Arts & Crafts Style bungalow ‘Highbury’ when built in 1912-1913 for William Kerr, jeweller, typified Nixon and Son’s capacity to work in this mode [Fig. 6.16]. This bungalow, which is now known as the Patrick White House, has been much altered during the long tenure of Nobel Laureate Patrick White and his partner Manoly Lascaris.

The name of W. M. Nixon and Son appears regularly in the ‘Contracts’ columns in the Sydney press and their career can be accurately traced through tender notices and contract references in papers such as the *Sydney Morning Herald*. On 30 June 1914, two projects listed in the Contract columns of this newspaper shed light on W. M. Nixon’s close involvement with William and Ada Harris and their property ‘Edensor’ at Cheltenham. These two notices read as follows:

#### CONTRACTS

Cheltenham.—erection of a residence. Messrs. W. M. Nixon and Son, architects. Mr. J. Brown, builder.

Cheltenham.—Laying out grounds and other works to a large residence, Messrs. W. M. Nixon and Son, architects. Mr. A. L. Doust, contractor.

[*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 June 1914, p. 3]

The first project listed in the ‘Contracts’ report was for the erection of a new Federation Free Style house on a very large suburban site at the corner of The Crescent and Murray Road, Cheltenham, otherwise known as ‘Red East’ at 1 Murray Road, Beecroft. This villa was built by James Brown, building contractor of Ashfield, for Eleanor Frances Pines (1869-1947), widow of the general manager of W. H. Paling & Company, music and music instrument specialists. It is of interest because W. M. Nixon has used rockfaced Pyrmont sandstone, with draft margins, for the wide verandah columns and balustrade at ‘Red East’ [Fig. 6.17], in a manner similar to the Pyrmont stone used for the verandah columns and balustrade at W. H. Harris’s Edensor at Cheltenham [Fig. 6.17 (d)]. The Harris family owned the Pyrmont Quarries.



Fig. 6.17 ‘Red East’ at 1 Murray Road, Beecroft and ‘Edensor’ Verandah (lower right) in 1932 [Red East Website and *Truth*, 16 October 1932, p. 1]



Fig. 6.18 Edensor at 203 Beecroft Road, Cheltenham, in 1932  
The Stone Verandah and Rear Buildings were constructed in 1914-1915  
[*Truth*, Sydney, Sunday 16 October 1932, p. 1]

The second project listed was evidently for William Henry Harris [II] at Edensor in Cheltenham, as A. L. Doust, the landscape and building contractor engaged for the various works at the Cheltenham Recreation Club in late 1913, was also commissioned for these works. Whilst W. M. Nixon's client is not mentioned in either contract notice, it is clear that he was working closely with William H. Harris and Arthur L. Doust on the extensive site landscaping works for the CRC and by mid-June 1914 these works were close to completion. The aforementioned works, described as being 'laying out grounds and other works to a large residence' fits neatly with the adjacent site of Edensor, as it is known that W. H. Harris made extensive alterations to the original Rattray villa after 1907 and before the First World War [See Helen Barker, *Houses of Hornsby Shire Volume II (1888-1938)*, Hornsby, 1988, p. 28].

It is also clear from an examination of the 1943 aerial photograph of the Edensor site (Portion 499), that the landscaping around Edensor was carefully planned in the popular gardenesque manner, with easily recognisable regularly laid out planting beds, geometric paths and strategically located trees and shrubs [Fig. 4.14]. W. M. Nixon, a noted local horticulturalist, was an advocate of gardenesque, as opposed to picturesque principles, in the design of large suburban gardens (man-made or artificial versus natural qualities) [See Richard Aitken, *Gardenesque : A Celebration of Australian Gardening*, Miegunyah, 2004].

W. M. Nixon was also a leading figure in horticultural organisations in the Beecroft and Cheltenham neighbourhoods from the time of his arrival in the district. Of great interest is the fact that he was elected president of the Beecroft Amateur Horticultural Club in November 1910, a private organisation set up with a limit of twelve members, with the primary objective of encouraging the beautification of members gardens, and 'for the exchange of ideas, as well as plants'. Notice of the formation of this private group reads as follows:

HORTICULTURAL CLUB.— A private Horticultural Club has been formed in Beecroft, under the name of the Beecroft Amateur Horticultural Club. At a meeting held on Wednesday, Councillor W. M. Nixon was elected president; Mr. A. E. Antrobus vice-president; Mr. A. Wachsmann secretary; Mr. O'Sullivan treasurer; Messrs. H. Little, Griffiths, and Barbour, committee. The membership is limited to 12, to enable one meeting to be held each month at each member's residence in rotation. The principal object of the club is to encourage the beautifying of our gardens, and for the exchange of ideas, as well as plants. A code of rules has been drawn up and adopted, and the first meeting will be held in January next.

[*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 26 November 1910, p. 8]

Less than two years later, in September 1912, Councillor William M. Nixon was elected a vice-president of the Central Cumberland Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Press reports confirm that he took an active role in the affairs of this local group over many years [*Daily Telegraph*, 10 August 1912, p. 15].

Will Nixon regularly acted as a judge at the Castle Hill Show [6 January 1917, p. 6] and in 1917, he was elected as the Cheltenham Bowling Club’s delegate to the N.S.W. Bowling Association. At this time, W. H. Harris [II] was the patron of the local bowling club [Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, 29 September 1917].

William and Ada Nixon lived in their large Federation Queen Anne Style two-storey residence at 12 Malton Road until 1921, when they moved next door to the smaller Arts & Crafts bungalow built around 1910 to designs by their son Charles Nixon. He maintained a close connection with the Beecroft and Cheltenham communities, he was again elected a vice-president of the Cumberland Agricultural and Horticultural Society in 1929 and was regularly awarded architectural commissions from long-established clients in the Hornsby Shire. In November 1928, he advertised for tenders to build a lock-up shop at Beecroft [Sydney Morning Herald, 21 November 1928, p. 11].

W. M. Nixon practised as an architect from his offices at 163 Pitt Street, Sydney until at least the end of April 1930. He called for fresh tenders to erect an additional storey on the Hornsby Shire Council Chambers early in the month [Construction and Local Government Journal, 9 April 1930, p. 9], and his last recorded commission appears to be for the erection of cottages at Collaroy in late April [The Sun, 28 April 1930, p. 2]. Ill-health forced Nixon into retirement around the end of June 1930 and he died at Lynnwood at 11 Malton Road, Beecroft, on Friday 5 June 1931 at the age of 72 years. He was interred in the Anglican Section of the Rookwood Cemetery the next day [Sydney Morning Herald, 6 June 1931, p. 11]. His passing was noted in a Sydney press obituary as follows:

MR. WILLIAM MARK NIXON.

Mr. William Mark Nixon, who died at his home at Beecroft on Friday, at the age of 72 years, commenced his career in the Colonial Architect's Office, and later was transferred to the Railway Department, under the Engineer for Existing Lines. When he was retrenched, following the bank crisis in 1893, he started in business for himself as an architect. He continued to practise as an architect in Pitt-street until about 12 months ago, when ill-health compelled him to relinquish work. Mr. Nixon was for some years a councillor of Hornsby Shire, and occupied the presidential chair; he was also an alderman of Ashfield Council for five years. Mrs. Nixon and three sons survive him. The interment took place on Saturday afternoon in the Church of England portion of Rookwood Cemetery.

[Sydney Morning Herald, 9 June 1931, p. 8]

William Mark Nixon made an enormous contribution to the public and cultural life of the Beecroft and Cheltenham communities, and to the development of architectural traditions and residential building standards in the area. His role as a resident in the Hornsby Shire has also been succinctly captured by the Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group in their extensive biography prepared in 2015, which inter alia, reads:

William Nixon was President of Hornsby Shire in 1908 and 1909, having been President of the Beecroft Progress Association the year after he made his home in the suburb. He was foundation President of the Parents’ and Residents’ Association, a committee member of the Literary and Debating Society and the Musical and Dramatic Society, a trustee of the Recreation Ground and a sidesman of St John’s Church in 1913. Gardening was one of William’s hobbies. Appropriately, he was first President of the Horticultural Club founded in 1910 and was responsible for the planting of roses in the station garden.

[‘Nixon, William Mark’, Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group, 2015 ([www.bchg.org.au](http://www.bchg.org.au))]



William M. Nixon also made an indelible contribution to the physical development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, from its inception in 1913 until at least 1925. Nixon designed the layout of the grounds of the Club in 1913-1914 and neatly fitted three tennis courts, a croquet lawn and the first bowling green into a small parcel of land donated to the CRC in 1913 (Lots 1-5 in DP 5440). His professional contribution as an architect, landscape designer and horticulturalist is etched in the existing site of the Cheltenham Recreation Club, and in the existing buildings and gardens of Edensor.

Singlehandedly, it seems, W. M. ‘Will’ Nixon has largely shaped the sloping rural terrain of a considerable area of Portion 499 in the Parish of Field of Mars as sporting fields, as well as determining the original architectural character of the first rudimentary ‘fibro-cement’ CRC Clubhouse, which structure evolved over a period of twelve years, from 1913 to 1925. William Mark Nixon was a ‘Renaissance’ man, talented architect, multi-skilled self-employed practitioner, noted horticulturalist, amateur photographer, early radio aficionado, civic leader, public figure and otherwise ‘so very shy and retiring that he only presents himself to intimate friends’ [‘The Two Mr. Nixons’ in *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 20 October 1917, p. 8].

Reference to the 1943 aerial photograph of all of the land contained in Portion 499 [Fig. 4.14], which covers both the CRC site as developed to that time, as well as the site of Edensor and two contiguous paddocks, reveals that there was very little landscaping of the CRC land undertaken under W. M. Nixon’s direction. Nevertheless, the intricate garden layout and plantings around W. H. Harris’s residence, Edensor, as laid out by Nixon in 1914-1915, is readily discerned in this photograph. It appears that formal landscaping of the original site of the CRC was confined to a long rectangular plan barrier of plants which served to separate the croquet lawn from the original bowling green and the planting of a number of trees on The Crescent frontage and around the original entrance to the CRC.

Reference to the 1953 aerial photograph [Fig. 6.1 (b)] reveals that the group of trees and shrubs located at the original pedestrian entrance to the site had been removed by that time and the site was largely devoid of trees, shrubs and planting beds. At this time, there were two separate entrances to the CRC site, one leading to the tennis courts and the tennis pavilion, the other leading directly to the CRC Clubhouse. A third entrance provided vehicular access to the Edensor site via a right-of-way leading to front gates at the eastern boundary of the residence reserve. This driveway had by then been planted with hedges on each side of the right-of-way, which was later formally identified on a survey plan [See Fig. 4.19].

In effect, the 1953 aerial photograph confirms that, just prior to the CRC embarking on their project to construct a new clubhouse on their expanded site, the property was devoid of mature plantings and not landscaped in any meaningful manner, although the second bowling green had been laid out and seeded. The existing gardens and landscape elements on the CRC site clearly date from after 1957, when the Clubhouse was officially opened. As elsewhere mentioned, W. M. Nixon had A. L. Doust form bench excavations to provide level ground for the original croquet lawn and bowling green. He used the overburden from these levelling works to fill the deep depression in the terrain located close to the corner of The Crescent and The Boulevard. This soil was used to provide a level surface on which the three lawn tennis courts were constructed in the period 1913-1920. In the process, Nixon had stone retaining walls built along part of The Crescent frontage and the southern boundary of the tennis courts to contain this fill. This second southern boundary wall is clearly shown on both the abovementioned aerial photographs as a straight black shadow line. These stone walls are in place to the present day and the wall on The Crescent street frontage can be seen to effect in Fig. 6.21.



## 6.5 Post War Development of the Site and the Second Clubhouse

The Sydney Real Tennis Club Limited now propose to erect a new real tennis court building as an addition to the existing two-storey Clubhouse owned and occupied by the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited since 1957. The architectural and cultural history of this building is only tenuously recorded in the archives of the CRC, and in local history sources, including those files of the Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group (BCHG) which are published on their informative and wide-ranging website. Historians with the BCHG succinctly record that:

In 1948, Mr Harris donated a second parcel of land upon which were built a second bowling green and two more tennis courts. They were opened on Australia Day 1950. The club continued to expand with, in 1954, work commencing on a new club house being built in memory of William Harris who had died the year before. It was opened on 13 April 1957.

Examination of the records of the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited and a review of the popular and dedicated architectural press in Australia (Trove) has now clearly established that the existing 'William H. Harris Memorial Clubhouse' at Cheltenham was designed by Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly (1925-1992), partner in the architectural firm of Adam, Wright and Apperly, and built in the period from January 1954 to April 1957. Positive moves to construct a new and more accommodating clubhouse at the CRC stem from discussions at committee meetings held in the old clubhouse in late 1953 and early 1954. At a CRC Ltd committee meeting held on 25 January 1954, the following decisions were confirmed:

### CRC Ltd Committee Meeting held at the Clubrooms on Monday 25 January 1954

General discussion on the siting of the proposed new clubhouse. After discussion and suggestions re alternative sites it was ultimately agreed that the site chosen by Mr. Russell be accepted as most suitable, and that Messrs. Wright & Applebee [sic], Architects, be consulted as to a suitable plan. The meeting terminated at 10.00 pm. [Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Minute Books]

Six months later, the CRC Committee met to advance the proposal and to meet their architect, Richard Apperly at the site, the Committee resolution reading as follows:

### CRC Ltd Committee Meeting held at the Clubrooms in August 1954

The architect, Mr. Apperley [sic], was to be requested to meet Messrs. Russell, Gollan and Milner at the Clubhouse and subsequently to prepare a rough plan and give an estimate of the cost of such planned extension. [Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Minute Books]

By June 1955, the architects, under the banner of Adam, Wright and Apperly, had completed the design and documentation for the proposed new Clubhouse and had the plans approved by both the Hornsby Shire Council and the Metropolitan Licensing Court. A report on the 'Club Premises' appears in the Annual Report of the CRC for the year ending 30 June 1955.

### CLUB PREMISES

The erection of a new clubhouse has been beset with difficulties in obtaining the necessary finance. Various finance organisations have been approached unsuccessfully, but negotiations are now being entered into which the Directors anticipate will result in the required amount of finance, on favourable terms, being available in the near future. Members will have noted that the plans of the new building, which have been approved by Hornsby Shire Council and the Metropolitan Licensing Court, make provision for all modern amenities, for both present and future members, in an attractive and functional building.

[The Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited, 'Annual Report' year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1955]

In December 1954, Richard Apperly and his new partner David Barnett announced that they had assumed control of the old firm of Adam, Wright and Apperly, of 28 Bond Street, Sydney [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 1954, p. 19] and had nominated Richard (Dick) Apperly to take charge of the commission to design a new clubhouse for the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited.

Construction of the new Clubhouse was delayed for some considerable time as the Committee struggled to find a source of finance for the project. A search of land titles reveals that a mortgage over the land held by the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited was finally arranged with the City Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited and some months later Mortgage No. G464944 was formally registered on the relevant Certificate of Title on 15 March 1956 [Certificate of Title Volume 8422 Folio 153]. By this time work was underway.

Club Premises:

The new clubhouse is nearing completion and should be ready for use in October. The functional design of the building is now apparent and all facilities are provided for the utmost in comfort for members, and for improved service by the house staff providing refreshments and catering services. It is anticipated that the Section Social Committees will now feel proud to arrange Social activities in very pleasant surroundings.

[The Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited, 'Annual Report' year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1956]

By 30 June 1956, the CRC had spent £5858/14/4 on the new clubhouse. The final cost of the new building was tallied at £16,684 odd, with an additional cost of £1,520 odd for fittings and fixtures and £271 for landscaping works. By 30 June 1957, the Cheltenham Recreation Club had spent £18,476 on the redevelopment of their new clubrooms. A search of CRC records has as yet failed to identify the builder selected to construct Richard Apperly's exceedingly chaste design for the new Clubhouse. The building as designed and constructed in 1956 is based on a long rectangular hall plan with a large kitchen located at the east end and a wide bar across the west end. The design is an austere example of Functional Modernism, the walls are built of load-bearing brickwork with a flat steel deck roof supported on then fashionable exposed open-web steel joists spanning across the dining hall and meeting room [See Fig. 6.21].

Club Premises:

The new clubhouse was completed during the year and members commenced to use the amenities provided in December, 1956.

The total costs incurred to the 30th June, 1957 are set out hereunder:-

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Clubhouse Building   | 16,684. 6. 7  |
| Fittings (including Refrigeration,<br>Stove, Glass washer, Tables,<br>Chairs, Dais etc.) | 1,520.18.10   |
| Grounds, gardens and lawns   | 271. 0. 9     |
|  | <hr/>         |
|  | £18,476. 6. 2 |

[The Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited, 'Annual Report' year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1957, p. 2]

The official opening of The William H. Harris Memorial Clubhouse by Mr. Hilton Richardson, President of Royal N.S.W. Bowling Association, assisted by Mr. Colvin, and Mesdames Wall and Volinski, took place on 13th April, 1957, and Mrs. Harris unveiled a memorial plaque paying tribute to the generosity of the late Mr. Harris towards district recreational facilities. The Directors are appreciative of the assistance rendered by the various sections in making this function an outstanding success, and in particular of the afternoon tea supplied by the ladies.

The Board wishes to express its appreciation for substantial savings made by the Club in work done at reduced rates, in particular by Messrs. G. Hamilton and A. Schubert, and also by Messrs. A. Beveridge, W. Thompson, and W. Strachan, and many other members of the Club.

[The Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited, 'Annual Report' year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1957, p. 3]



Fig. 6.19 Group Photograph at the Opening Day of the Cheltenham Recreation Club  
Inscription Verso reads 'Opening Day 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 1957' and 'Gwen Lawson'  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]



Fig. 6.20 Rolling the First Bowl on Season Opening Day : 24 September 1957  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]





Fig. 6.21

The Second CRC Clubhouse : Exterior and Interior Views in 2019  
[Photography : S. Cremona, SRTC, 2019]

A search of the archives of the Cheltenham Recreation Club for original architectural drawings, building contracts and photographic records of the 'William H. Harris Memorial Clubhouse' has not unearthed any trove of documents. Instead, only two photographs of the new Clubhouse were located [Figs. 6.19 and 6.20], together with some photographs of members, as well as architectural working drawings for additions and alterations to the 1956 Clubhouse, which drawings are dated 7 August 1970 [Figs. 6.22 and 6.23] together with drawings for construction of a new tennis shelter dated 29 April 1970 [Fig. 6.24]. Two building approvals are dated 25 September and 29 June 1970 [BA 2027-70, 1307-70].

The new two-storey building was located on a part of the CRC site which had not been otherwise developed for recreational sports. This parcel of land was given to the CRC by their benefactor W. H. Harris in March 1949 [Fig. 4.15 (a)] to facilitate further development of the Cheltenham Recreation Club in the immediate post-war period. A sloping site (6° fall) was selected well clear of the existing clubhouse so that the original somewhat ramshackle building could continue in use whilst the new building was erected. Following the official opening of the new Clubhouse on 13 April 1957, the old building was retained on site until around 1970, when additions were made to the 1957 Clubhouse. In the demolition process, the gable-roofed open-air pavilion as erected in 1933, was retained and adapted for continued use by the Croquet Section of the CRC. This building survives to the present day in a much-altered condition and contains some windows and building fabric salvaged from the demolition of the First Clubhouse in 1957. It also has building fabric containing asbestos.

A fibro-cement Shelter Shed was erected in early 1964 [BA 121-64] and a Brick Soil Shed was built in May 1967 [BA 813-67]. In 1970, the CRC Committee engaged the prominent architectural firm of Ruskin Rowe, Elmes and Slatter, of North Sydney, to design and document alterations and additions to the Clubhouse as well as design a new tennis pavilion. The working drawings for these works are reproduced below.

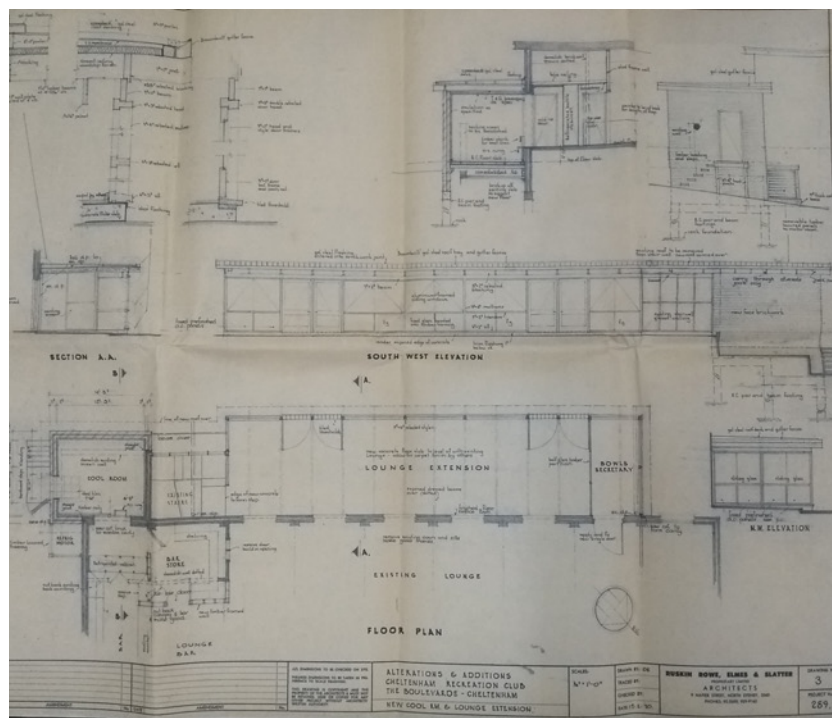


Fig. 6.22 'Alterations & Additions Cheltenham Recreation Club The Boulevard--Cheltenham' New Cool Room and Lounge Extension : Drawing No. 3  
Ruskin Rowe, Elmes and Slatter, Architects : Dated 7 August 1970  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]



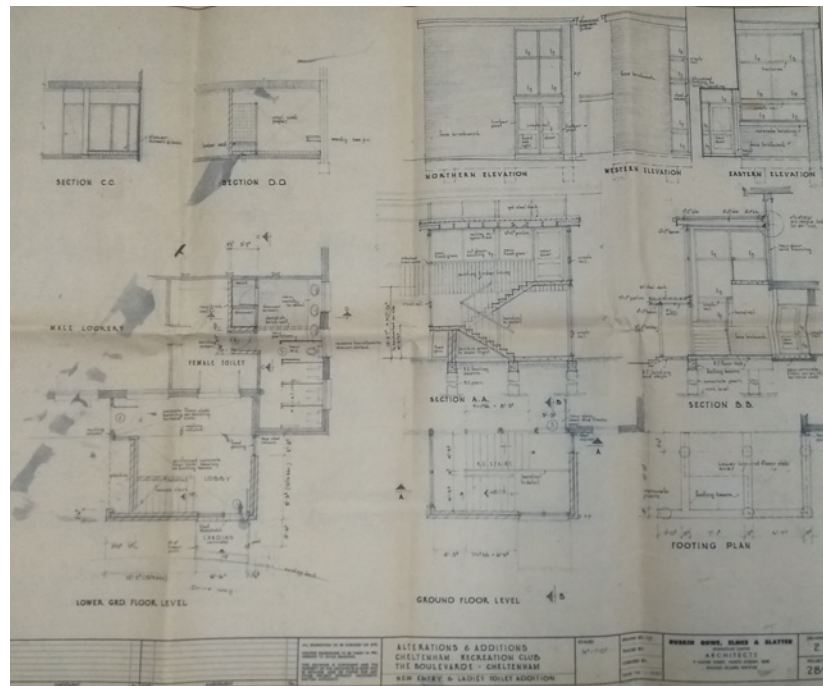


Fig. 6.23 'Alterations & Additions Cheltenham Recreation Club The Boulevard--Cheltenham'  
New Entry & Ladies Toilet Addition : Drawing No. 2  
Ruskin Rowe, Elmes and Slatter, Architects : Dated 7 August 1970  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]

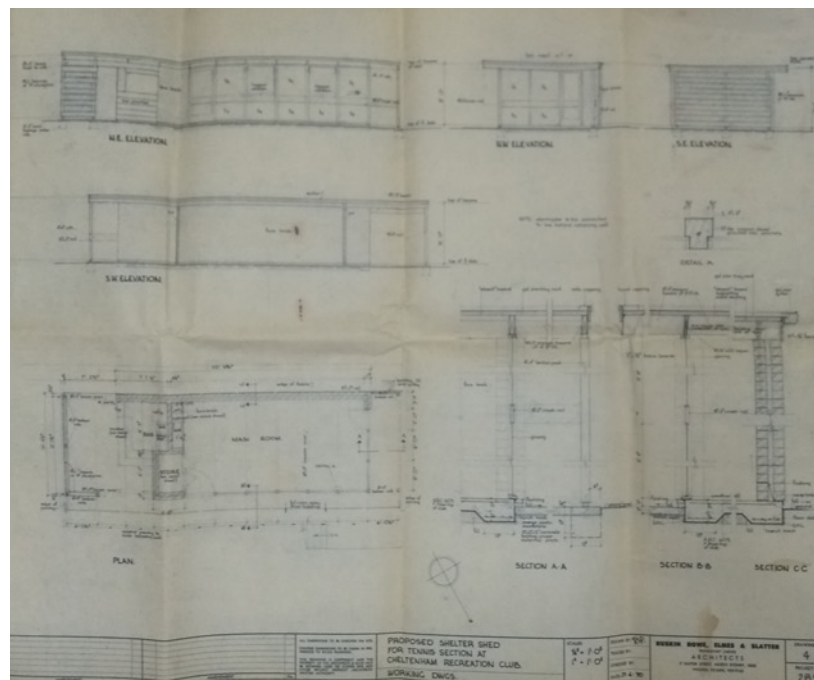


Fig. 6.24 'Alterations & Additions Cheltenham Recreation Club The Boulevard--Cheltenham'  
Proposed Shelter Shed for Tennis Section : Drawing No. 4  
Ruskin Rowe, Elmes and Slatter, Architects : Dated 29 April 1970  
[Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited Archives]

The matching extensions to the original CRC Clubhouse, as built in 1970-71, were designed by architects Ruskin Rowe, Elmes and Slatter to match the form and materials used in 1956. The work included a new entry staircase, toilets and enclosing the verandah canopy.

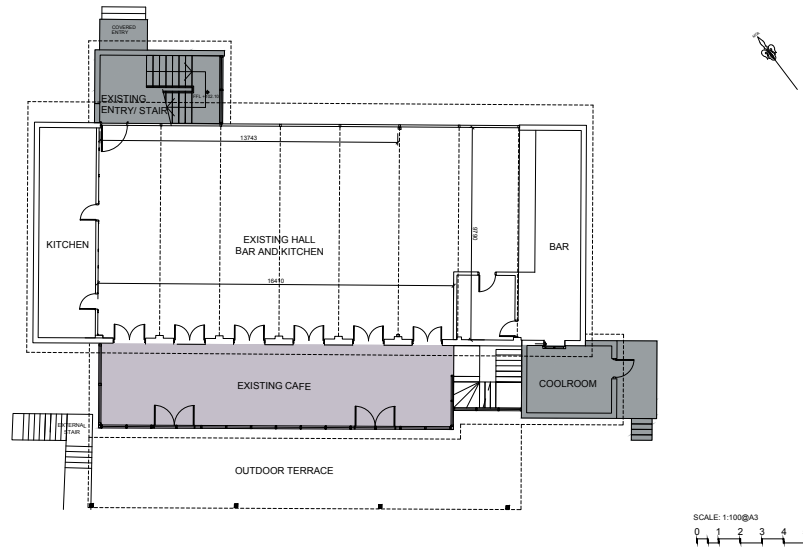


Fig. 6.25 Existing Conditions : Cheltenham Recreation Club : Upper Level Floor Plan (2020)  
[Shaded Areas are 1970-1971 Additions : Delineation S. N. Cremona, SRTC]

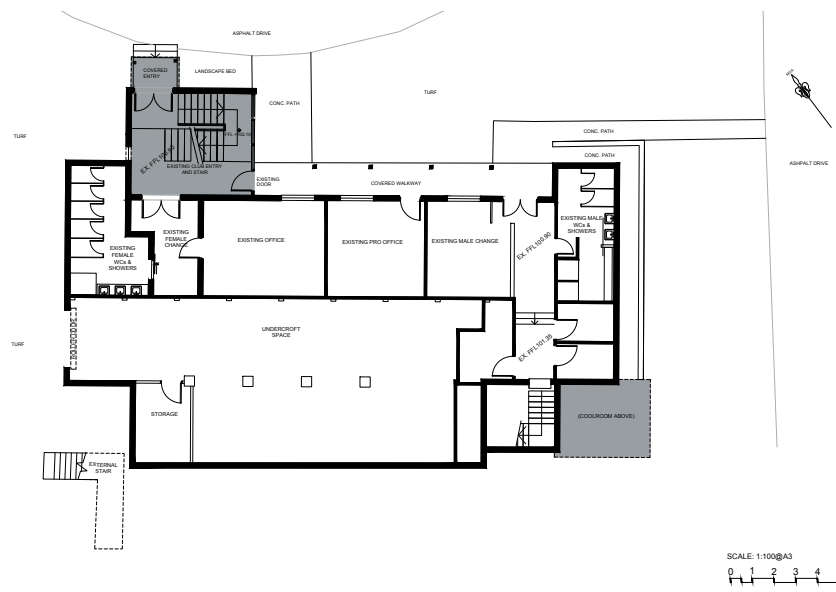


Fig. 6.26 Existing Conditions : Cheltenham Recreation Club : Lower Level Floor Plan (2020)  
[Shaded Areas are 1970-1971 Additions : Delineation S. N. Cremona, SRTC]

Richard Eric (Dick) Apperly, many years later, described the architectural style of his chaste modern building for the CRC as being 'Post War International'. Examination of the original plan form [Figs. 6.25 and 6.26], confirms that the building is based on a formal rectangular plan layout arranged on two controlling axes, with the principal elevation to the street frontage originally presenting as a symmetrical composition. This simple plan form was later repeated in two of Apperly's buildings at the Shell Refinery, Clyde [Figs. 6.37 (a) and (b)]. It is also pertinent to note that Apperly's design cleverly utilised the natural steep slope of the site to advantage. The deep excavation cut into the hill allowed for access to the Clubhouse from The Crescent frontage at natural ground level as well as allowing the upper floor level to be aligned close to the same level as originally established for the second bowling green. The close alignment can be seen to effect on a 1957 photograph [Fig. 6.19].

## 6.6 Richard Eric (Dick) Apperly (1925-1992) : Architect, Academic, Author

Dick Apperly's career and notable contributions to the architectural profession and to academic life in New South Wales is well understood by members of the profession in Australia, by his fellow academics, and by a host of graduates who studied under his tutelage in the University of New South Wales from 1966 until 1990. Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly's publications have likewise made notable contributions to the study of architectural history in Australia, and a recent biography included in *the Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, mentions the import of two of his major books concerning Australian and Sydney architecture. This entry reads:

### APPERLY, RICHARD

Richard Eric (Dick) Apperly (1925-1992) was the son of architect Eric Langton Apperly. He studied architecture at the University of Sydney in the period 1946-1950, gaining a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours). Apperly joined his father's firm, Wright and Apperly, then known as Adam, Wright & Apperly, in 1951 upon his father's death. From about 1958 [sic], when David Barnett joined the firm, the practice was known as Adam, Barnett & Apperly, and later Richard Apperly Architect. In 1966, Apperly was appointed a full-time lecturer in architecture at the University of NSW, from where he would retire in 1990, as associate professor, having served as head of architecture (1984-87).

He had a profound impact on the architecture course at the University of NSW, and lasting legacy for the study of Australian architecture through his enduring interest in the Australian house of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, through his research, including his master's thesis (completed at the University of NSW in 1972) on interwar Sydney houses and the book *444 Sydney buildings*, written with Peter Lind (1971). His most enduring work, written with Bob Irving and Peter Reynolds, was *A pictorial guide to identifying Australian architecture : Styles and terms from 1788 to the present* (1989), undertook the enormously difficult task of attempting to categorise Australian architecture into identifiable stylistic categories, from the beginning of European settlement onwards. [Julie Willis and Anne Higham, 'Apperly, Richard' in Philip Goad and Julie Willis, *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, p. 25]

Whilst Willis and Higham have, in the above biographical portrait, effectively summarised the great contribution that Richard Apperly made to architectural education in New South Wales in an academic career covering nearly three decades, they have chosen not to discuss Apperly's work as an architect in the 1950s and 1960s. Although I cannot recall meeting Apperly at any time, his colleagues Bob Irving and Peter Reynolds were friends of mine through the Society of Architectural Historians Australia and New Zealand (SAHANZ) and the now defunct Horbury Hunt Club respectively. Having now established that the present Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited clubhouse was designed by architect Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly, of the firm of Wright and Apperly, in the period 1954-1956, it is appropriate to chart the architectural origins and extensive practice of this old established firm, as well as record the role Dick Apperly played when the firm was restructured in 1951.

### 6.6.1 Arthur Henry Wright (1881-1959) : Architect and Amateur Golfer

The architectural practice of the aforementioned Arthur H. Wright, founding partner in the firm of Wright and Apperly, evidently commenced in 1908 when he advertised tenders for construction of a pair of semi-detached residences at Manly [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 July 1908, p. 10]. At this time he had an office in the Industrial Chambers, York Street, Sydney, and lived with his new wife Elizabeth (née Twaddle) at 'Moyne' in Riddall Street, Manly.

Arthur Henry Wright (1881-1959) was born in 1881, son of wealthy Sydney boot manufacturer and prominent Manly resident John Plant Wright (1842-1912) and his wife Margaret (née Kennedy). His mother, a milliner, was born in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and came to Sydney in January 1864. She married John Plant Wright, who hailed from Donnington Castle in Leicestershire, in 1866. Arthur Henry Wright grew up at the family home 'Bowercliff' in Bower Street, Manly, in comfortable circumstances, in a family of three sons and six daughters. Upon arrival in Sydney, John Plant Wright 'engaged in the boot trade' and operated in several partnerships, until after his return from England in 1878, when he set up the firm of Wright & Co., tanners, curriers, and boot manufacturers.

J. P. Plant was also very active in community affairs, he was principal benefactor of the Manly Bowling Club and the president for many years, and rose to be the employers' representative on the first Arbitration Court in New South Wales. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Chamber of Manufactures and the Employers' Federation, serving, respectively, as treasurer and vice-president of these two politically powerful organisations. John Plant Wright, who actively supported his young son's entry into the architectural profession and brought many clients his way, 'suffered a severe breakdown through overwork' and died at 'Bowercliff' on 12 March 1912 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 March 1912, p. 8]. He left an estate valued at £72,000, of which his youngest son, Arthur Henry, inherited 4,000 shares in Taylor Bros. Ltd., and a one-seventh share of the residuary estate [*Sun*, 10 April 1912, p. 4].

A comprehensive search of Sydney newspapers (Trove) has identified a large number of residential and commercial projects undertaken by Arthur H. Wright in the period from 1907, when he was awarded second prize in a competition to design 'the best system of conducting surf bathing' at Manly [*Evening News*, 10 July 1907, p. 2], until 1919, when he opted to take in a partner. Arthur H. Wright was an accomplished golfer, he played at his father's club in Manly with some distinction and in 1911 he was selected as the architect to design additions to the clubhouse of the Manly Golf Club [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 July 1911, p. 12]. A. H. Wright served as a committee-man at the Moore Park Golf Club for some time in the 1910s and in 1915, Wright, in association with G. M. Pitt, won the commission to design a new and well-appointed clubhouse for the Wentworth Falls Golf Club in the distant Blue Mountains [*Sun*, 22 March 1915, p. 8].

#### **6.6.2 Eric Langton Apperly (1889-1951) : Architect and Champion Golfer**

Eric Langton Apperly (1889-1951) was born on 16 September 1889. His parents Henry Wellsted Apperly (1861-1930) of Forest Lodge, Sydney, and his wife Alice (née Langton) were married in Melbourne on 23 September 1885 [*Sydney Mail*, 10 October 1885, p. 807]. Henry Wellsted Apperly was born in Melbourne in 1861, son of Henry Apperly, a London-born sculptor and his wife Emma (née Wellsted) (1831-1909). H. W. Apperly pursued a notable career with the AMP Society and rose to be national secretary of this once elite organisation in 1910. His career is recorded in great detail in a lengthy obituary published in the Sydney press in July 1930 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 July 1930, p. 12].

Eric Langton Apperly's grandfather, Henry Apperly (1824-1887) came to Melbourne in the early 1850s and formed a partnership with Thomas Renoden as sculptors and builders, operating from a yard in Lonsdale Street East. Their partnership was dissolved in October 1854 [*Argus*, Melbourne, 10 October 1854, p. 8] and Apperly set up on his own account as a 'stone carver' operating from workshops in Stephen (later Exhibition) Street, Melbourne. Before emigrating, Apperly, who was born in Gloucestershire in 1824, was employed for some years as a stone carver on the Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster) project in London.



He exhibited Plaster of Paris models of Gothic mouldings in the Museum of Industry and Art in Melbourne in March 1867 and in 1868 he moved to Sydney with his wife and four young children and found employment in the Colonial Architect's Department. For nigh on 20 years, Henry Apperly executed a number of important commissions for sculptural relief and monumental carvings on public and ecclesiastical buildings. Most notably, his carving of an altar tomb and recumbent figure of the late Bishop Patteson from designs by architect Edward T. Blacket attracted widespread attention in the Australian press in 1873 [Fig. 6.27]. Henry Apperly died at his residence in Arundel Terrace, The Glebe, on 3 January 1887 [*Sydney Mail and New South Wales*, 8 January 1887, p. 101].

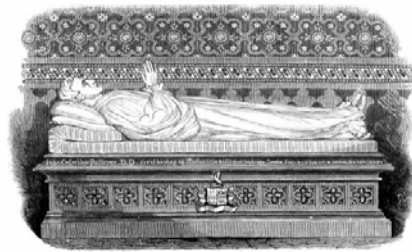


Fig. 6.27 'Altar Tomb to the Late Bishop Patteson, Christ Church, Sydney'  
[*Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, 4 December 1873, p. 197]

Henry Wellsteed Apperly, as administrative head of the AMP Society, was also an active supporter of the firm of Wright and Apperly. He gave their practice an early break with the commission to design an AMP branch office at Young in 1921 [*Daily Telegraph*, 12 July 1921, p. 9]. By December 1927, the AMP Society had erected fifteen buildings in rural New South Wales, to include Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Goulburn, Grafton, Inverell, Lismore, Maitland, Narrandera, Newcastle, Tamworth, Taree and Young [List from *Manning River Times and Advocate*, 10 December 1927, p. 14]. All of the above fifteen branch AMP offices were designed in different stylistic modes, ranging from Renaissance Revival to Moderne idioms. Wright and Apperly evidently designed at least seven of these branch offices for the AMP at Armidale, Goulburn, Inverell, Taree, Newcastle, Narrandera and Young.

The AMP offices in Hunter Street, Newcastle, erected in 1925, were styled in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo mode, whilst other AMP Society branch offices at Armidale, Narrandera and Taree [Fig. 6.28 (c)], were configured in the popular Georgian Revival style. Clearly, Wright and Apperly thrived in the eclecticism of the Inter-War period in Australia and their Moderne design for the Feltex Building in George Street, Sydney is testament to their skills in a number of Inter-War styles [Fig. 6.28 (b)].

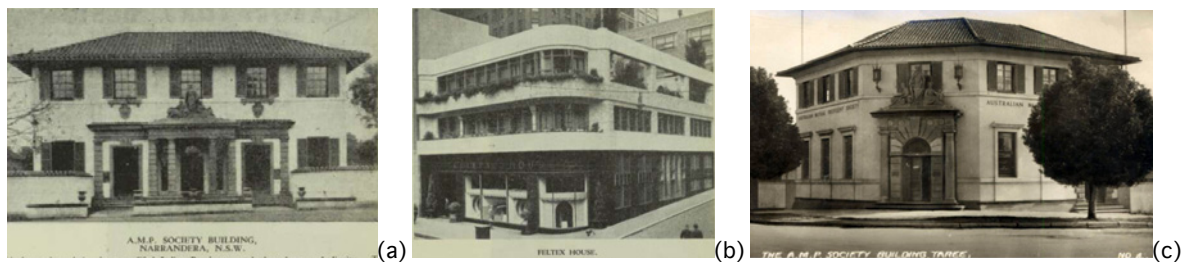


Fig. 6.28 'AMP Society Building, Narrandera, NSW' (a) and 'Feltex House', George Street, Sydney (b)  
[*Building and Engineering*, 24 July 1951, p. 25]  
'The A.M.P. Society Building, Taree' (Opened December 1927)  
[*Northern Champion*, 10 December 1927, p. 4]

Eric Langton Apperly was educated at Sydney Grammar School and around 1906 'he went abroad to commence his architectural studies at the famous Architectural Association School, London, where he passed with honours in the year 1910' [See Adrian Ashton, 'The Work of E. L. Apperly', in *Building and Engineering*, 24 July 1951, p. 24]. Upon his return to Sydney around 1911, he joined the firm of Power & Adam, and gained much valuable experience working with two of Sydney's most influential architects, Joseph Porter Power and John Shedden Adam. He left this practice at the end of World War I, to join his talented golfing rival and architectural colleague, Arthur Henry Wright, in what turned out to be a most productive and influential partnership.

### 6.6.3 Wright and Apperly : Architects and Golf Course Designers

Arthur Wright and Eric Apperly were well known in golfing circles in Sydney and likely met at the Manly Golf Club where, as young men, they shared a mutual interest in golf and architecture. Somewhat inevitably, they established a partnership after the end of WWI and commenced in practice as Wright and Apperly from an office at 70 Pitt Street, Sydney, on 1 November 1919. Their firm was registered as a business on 17 November (No. 41161) [*Dun's Gazette for New South Wales*, 1 December 1919, p. 12]. One of their first commissions was for the design of a cottage at Manly in November 1919 [*Sun*, 17 November 1919, p. 2]. In July 1920, the rising partnership was commissioned to design residential quarters at the Blackheath Golf Club in the Blue Mountains.

Wright and Apperly seemingly had a stranglehold on golf course commissions in New South Wales in the 1920s and 1930s as Eric Apperly had won widespread praise as a talented golfer following his victory in the Australian Amateur Championship in 1920. From 1907, Eric Apperly's talents as a golfer won him the soubriquet of 'boy champion', he was runner-up in the New South Wales Amateur Championship in 1907 and went on to win this title five times between 1912 and 1930. He was first selected in the NSW State Team in 1906 and held his place for more than twenty years. Apperly toured England and Scotland as a young man, he played in the Australian Team on several occasions and last represented his Country in 1934. In the 1920s and 1930s, Eric Apperly was much in demand for advice and professional assistance in the design and layout of new golf courses in the Sydney area as well as winning a number of commissions to design substantial new clubhouses on these courses.

Wright and Apperly had charge of the project to build a new clubhouse at Manly in 1923-1924, to replace an earlier structure designed by Arthur H. Wright. Their design [Fig. 6.30 (a)] was in the Inter-War Mediterranean style, which at that time was being heavily promoted by Leslie Wilkinson, then Professor of Architecture in the University of Sydney, and by Hardy Wilson, the doyen of the Georgian Revival in Australia. In May 1927, Wright and Apperly won a design competition for a new building at Bonnie Doon Golf Club. They won from 27 entries, with the Clubhouse to cost £9,000 [*Construction and Local Government Journal*, 25 May 1927, p. 5]. In 1927, a boom year for golf course architecture, Wright and Apperly also designed a new clubhouse at Pymble for the Avondale Golf Club, with 'the style being in the early architecture of this State' [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 March 1927, p. 11].

In 1929, the firm designed a new clubhouse for the Lakes Golf Club at South Kensington, choosing another version of the Australian Colonial mode for the exterior of this fashionable and exclusive new golf course pavilion [Fig. 6.30 (b)]. Arthur H. Wright was on the committee of the Lakes Golf Club Limited, and Eric Apperly also acted as an honorary golf course architect (with T. E. Howard) in the layout of both the private (members) and public courses [*Referee*, 26 June 1929, p. 18].



Fig. 6.29 'Modern Golf Club House' for the Avondale Golf Club at Pymble (1927)  
[*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 March 1927, p. 11]



Fig. 6.30 'The New Manly Golf Club Pavilion' (a) 'The Lake Golf Club House' Kensington (b)  
[*Evening News*, 1 August 1924, p. 14 (a) : *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 1929, p. 8 (b)]

Golf became such a popular pastime and competitive sport in New South Wales in the Inter-War period that many enthusiasts undertook to construct miniature golf courses on their suburban properties, in Sydney, and in both regional and rural locations. Wright and Apperly designed a number of miniature golf course layouts to suit various locations, and advertised for tenders to construct these courses on many occasions in the early 1930s ['Tenders' in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 November 1930, p. 4].

Eric Apperly was responsible for the design and layout of many courses in New South Wales, to include that at the Studley Park estate at Camden, as well as at Eastlake in 1931 and at Kiama Golf Club in 1932. He also worked at Orange (1935) and Newcastle (1936) and after WWII, he remodelled the Pennant Hills Golf Club course layout and that at Pymble. Eric Apperly modified the layout of the Cromer Hills golf course in 1949 and in early 1951, he designed the first nine holes at the Castle Hill Country Club. Wright and Apperly enjoyed widespread patronage and were entrusted with commissions to design buildings of all types, to include banks, industrial factories and plants, offices, warehouses and large suburban residences in Sydney's fashionable inner harbour suburbs.

But the game of golf was their staple, and somewhat aptly, Eric L. Apperly collapsed and died in the locker rooms at the Manly Golf Club Clubhouse on 26 May 1951, at the age of 61 years. His passing was noted in the Sydney press, and in a neat and complimentary obituary written by fellow architect/editor/publisher Adrian Ashton and published as 'The Work of E. L. Apperly' [*Building and Engineering*, 24 July 1951, pp. 24-25]. Therein, Ashton wrote:

Had he had the planning of his passing he would have asked for nothing better than that his last gaze upon this troubled world should be across the rolling greenness of Manly Golf Course, over which he had trodden so often and where he had enjoyed life and the company of his fellows—and so it came to pass.

#### 6.6.4 Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly (1925-1992) and the Cheltenham Recreation Club

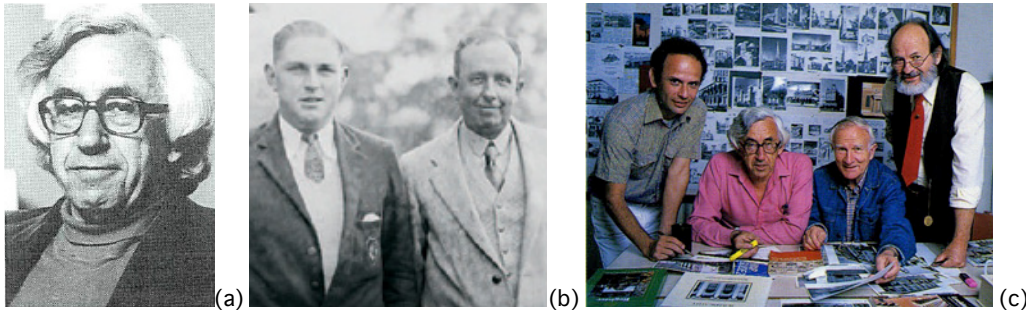


Fig. 6.31 Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly (a), with his father (b), and with UNSW Colleagues (c)  
[Apperly Family Collection : Apperly, Irving & Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide*, inside real flap]

Richard Eric 'Dick' Apperly was born into an architectural household. His father, Eric Langton Apperly married Marjorie Audet of Mosman in a quiet ceremony at St James's Church on 26 August 1924. Marjorie Audet (1895-1959) was born at Maitland in 1895, second daughter of Alexander Augustus Audet (1860-1921), a clerk in the Lands Department and his wife Madge Annie (née Pullan) [BDM NSW 1895/4754]. The wedding party 'afterwards adjourned to the Hotel Carlton, and later Mr. and Mrs. Apperly left by motor car for Melbourne' [*The Daily Telegraph*, 27 August 1924, p. 7]. Their only son, Richard Eric Apperly, was born at the family residence in Kings Avenue, Manly, on 27 May 1925 [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 June 1925, p. 14].

Richard Eric Apperly was educated at St Andrew's Preparatory School and The Scots College, Bellevue Hill, Sydney, gaining his Leaving Certificate in 1941. He then studied architecture in the University of Sydney from 1946-1950, graduating with an honours degree. He gained the requisite twelve months undergraduate practical experience firstly in the office of A. H. A. Hanson, architect, Sydney, for six months in 1948-1949, and a further six months with Adam, Wright and Apperly in 1949-1950. In 1951, he spent nine months working in the Commonwealth Bank Section of the Commonwealth Department of Works & Housing in their Goulburn Street offices before joining his late father's practice close to Christmas 1951, seemingly as an 'ardent modernist'. Dick Apperly registered as an architect in NSW on 28 May 1951 [Registration No. 1381], and later in the same year he was elected an associate of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA).

Dick Apperly joined the practice of Adam, Wright and Apperly as a new partner about six months after his father died and was effectively charged with giving the old firm a new image and a stylistic facelift. Eric Langton Apperly's sudden death in May 1951 left the practice somewhat in disarray and with little ongoing work. From 1952-1954 it seems the firm, under the token leadership of Arthur H. Wright, was largely preoccupied with the design and construction of 'Noble House', a seven-storey strata-title office block in North Sydney for the long-established Sydney builder/developer D. W. Noble [Fig. 6.33 (a)], a number of small residential commissions, and with further alterations and additions to the Wright and Apperly designed Manly Golf Club clubhouse.

Dick Apperly gently led the old firm of Adam, Wright and Apperly into a new Post-War era, where the emerging theories of the International Style (Modernism and Functionalism) were supplanting the historicist and revivalist modes which had so indelibly marked the work of Eric L. Apperly and his ilk in the Inter-War period. By way of publicly asserting his modernist conscience, Apperly and his contemporary, Richard Norman (aka Peter) Johnson (1923-2003), raised the horny problem of aesthetics and urban amenity in a letter to the Sydney press in April 1951.



It was published on the same day that the *Sydney Morning Herald* coincidentally printed a photograph of their controversial subject [Fig. 6.32], being the proposed elevated roadway and railway station at Circular Quay:

### City Aesthetics

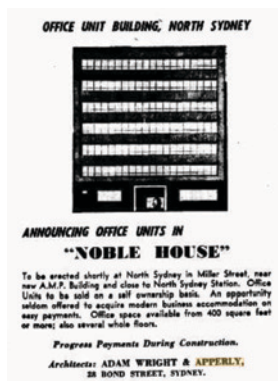
Sir,—In England there exists the Royal Fine Arts Commission, one of the duties of which is to review the aesthetic merits of buildings of public importance. Had such a body been in existence here, there can be no doubt that it would have advised against the monstrous blockade which is to be erected at Circular Quay. It is essential if our city is not to be continually disfigured, that such a body be constituted.

RICHARD JOHNSON, RICHARD APPERLY. Chatswood.



Fig. 6.32 'Circular Quay Railway Station Model' [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 April 1951, p. 2]

Dick Apperly was much involved in the visual arts as a student and after graduation he studied painting at the new Design School at Edgecliff [Fig. 6.33]. This institution was set up in January 1950 by members of the Society of Arts and Crafts of New South Wales [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 January 1950, p. 9]. Clearly, Apperly was a fan of Picasso and Dali.



(a)



ARCHITECT MR. RICHARD APPERLY shows his abstract oil painting to fellow Design School student, MISS DEIRDRE HALL, BEST, at the Festival of Talent being held by the Woollahra Arts Council to commemorate the Queen's visit. The festival is an exhibition of painting, sculpture and books by artists living in the Woollahra municipality, with a section devoted to work by students of the Design School. The Chief Justice, the Hon. K. W. Street, opened the festival yesterday afternoon.

(b)

Fig. 6.33 'Noble House' at North Sydney (a) : 'Design School Exhibition at Woollahra' (b) [*Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 July 1954, p. 11 (a) : *Sun-Herald*, 7 February 1954, p. 41 (b)]

In December 1954, Dick Apperly assumed formal control of the family practice, and advised that:

MESSRS R. E. APPERLY and D. R. BARNETT advise that they are practising in partnership under the name Adam Wright and Apperly, Architects, 28 Bond St, Sydney, and that Arthur H. Wright has retired from practice.

[*Sydney Morning Herald*, Friday 10 December, 1954, p. 19]

Dick Apperly and David Roy Barnett (1924-2004) went on to run the practice together for some time, after which the practice was known as ‘Richard Apperly, Architect’. David Barnett also graduated from the University of Sydney and registered as an architect in NSW in May 1954 [Registration No. 1634].

In the 1950s Dick Apperly was active in the affairs of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) and in June 1956, he attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the RAIA, held in Adelaide, South Australia. At this gathering, he first met 19 year-old RMIT student Myrna Yvonne (Myryamme) Hirsch, who had accompanied her father, Romanian born architect Grigore Mathias Hirsch, at the conference. At this time, Myrna was studying interior design at RMIT and working part-time as a model for Georges of Collins Street. On 21 September 1957, Richard Eric Apperly, a 32 year-old architect, married Myrna Yvonne (Myryamme) Hirsch at St Michael’s Catholic Church, Ashburton, Victoria, a muscular Modern Romanesque Revival style brick building designed by Grigore (aka Greg) Hirsch in 1954. The Certificate of Marriage records that they were married (by dispensation) in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church, and as the bride was listed as a 20 year-old student, her parents were required to give their consent to her marriage [BDM Victoria : Marriages 1957/12276].

At this time, R. E. Apperly lived at 642 Pacific Highway, Killara, NSW, whilst Myrna Yvonne Hirsch lived with her parents at 118 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris, in suburban Melbourne. Dick and Myrna Apperly had issue three sons, Mark Langton (b. 1959), Stephen Matthew (b. 1960) and Richard Lachlan (b. 1966), all born in Sydney. As the close familial link between the Apperly and Hirsch families has not been charted to date, the following biographical notes are set out below for the record. Grigore Mathias Hirsch’s life and career is otherwise charted by Simon Reeves in the Built Heritage website ([www.builtheritage.com.au/dua\\_conarg.html](http://www.builtheritage.com.au/dua_conarg.html)).

Myryamme Hirsch was born at Bucharest, Romania, on 4 May 1937, the first child of Grigore Mathias Hirsch (1906-1987) and his wife Sylvia (née Kastenbaum), of 49 Bulevardul Mărăști, Bucharest. Her father was born on 8 March 1906 and was educated firstly at Catholic schools and then at the University of Bucharest, firstly obtaining a Baccalaureat Diploma from the Seminarium Pedagogicum and in 1930 graduating with a Diploma of Architecture from the University’s Academy of Architecture. He set up in private practice in Bucharest and in 1933 became the in-house architect to a Shell Petrol Company subsidiary based in Romania. He held this position up to 1940. In the same period he entered several architectural competitions conducted throughout Europe and won a number of minor placings. As the war-clouds gathered over Europe in the late 1930s, Grigore Hirsch applied for a permit to enter Australia in an application dated 22 August 1938 and approved by the Commonwealth Immigration Department some two months later [National Archives of Australia NAA : 1997, 1938/303].

En route to Australia, the Hirsch family stopped off in Bombay (Mumbai). Whilst some commentators have it that Grigore Hirsch was attracted to the place, decided to stay and found work as an architect, their journey south was likely stopped in the first place by wartime controls on commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean. Hirsch, who practised as an architect in Bombay from June 1941 until late 1942, secured an ‘emergency commission’ on 2 October 1942 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the Indian Army [*The London Gazette*, 15 January 1943, p. 346]. In 1946 Grigore Hirsch won an architectural competition, this time for new headquarters for the Bengal Central Bank Limited. After working for the bank, as well as holding a position as a visiting lecturer at the Sibpore College at Howrah, Grigore and Sylvia Hirsch, together with their daughters Myryamme (Myrna Yvonne) and Eleanor Anne, and son Royce Reginald, decided to continue their journey to Australia.

To further facilitate their intended entry, Hirsch and his elder daughter, as Indian residents, became naturalised British subjects on 4 August 1947 (Naturalisation Certificate 04136) [National Archives, Kew, England : HO 334/257/4136]. Sylvia Hirsch and younger daughter Eleanor Anne came from Bombay to Perth as passengers in the M.S. *Carpenteria*, arriving at the Fremantle Docks on 6 October 1949. Immigration and Quarantine Service records confirm that they were headed to Victoria and intended to live at 81 Broadway, Camberwell [NAA : K269/9243237]. Coincidentally, the writer was responsible for the conservation of this same historic Federation Queen Anne style residence in 1986-88 [Job No. A.86.14].



Fig. 6.34 'Rumanian Architect' [*Sun*, Sydney, 17 December 1949, p. 3]

Grigore Hirsch, his elder daughter Myryamme (aka Miriam and then Myrna Yvonne) and son Royce Reginald flew into Sydney, aboard a Qantas Constellation to land at Mascot on 17 December 1949. Their arrival attracted the interest of the Sydney press, to include a photograph of the trio in the Sydney Terminal [Fig. 6.34].

Myrna Hirsch was educated at Mandeville Hall, an elite Catholic girls' school in Toorak. She then studied interior design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in the mid-1950s but never graduated. She resided with her parents until her marriage in September 1957, in an ultra-modern two-storey house designed by her father. Thereafter, she lived in Sydney with her husband and a growing family. Dick Apperly designed and built an innovative three-level brick, timber and glass residence at 4 Koowong Avenue, Mosman, in the early 1960s in a style Apperly later recorded as being 'Late Twentieth-Century Sydney Regional' [Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, 1989, pp. 240-243]. This residential style was one made popular in the project home market by leading practitioners in the 'Sydney School' to include Apperly's close friends, Russell Jack (1925-), Ken Woolley (1933-2015) and Peter (Richard Norman) Johnson (1923-2003). The Apperly family moved into their new abode in 1963 [Fig. 6.35].



Fig. 6.35 'Apperly House' at 4 Koowong Avenue, Mossman : Built 1962-1963, Renovated 20 [Collection : Apperly Family : Realestate.com]

In the 1950s and early 1960s, both Dick and Myrna Apperly contributed articles to the *Australian Home Beautiful*, an experience which eventually led Myrna into a career in journalism as a free-lance contributor to a number of Sydney journals and International newsletters like *Rugby Week*. Their own house featured in the February 1967 edition.

In 1974, Myrna Apperly, as an owner/chef, established a fine restaurant at Five Ways in Paddington in partnership with Len Evans, bon viveur, gourmet and leader in the burgeoning Australian wine industry. They operated for several years under the banner of ‘Evans & Apperly’s Paddington Kitchen’. Her son Richard later recalled that ‘the place was always filled with larger than life characters’. Dick and Myrna Apperly opted for separate lives in the mid-1970s and Myrna Apperly went to live and work in Florida, USA, for twelve months, after which she and her three sons Mark, Richard and Stephen, moved to Melbourne to live at 32 Kyarra Road, Glen Iris. In 1977, Myrna Apperly was appointed the first national press officer in politician Don Chipp’s Australian Democrats and spent some time ‘keeping the bastards honest’. Dick and Myrna Apperly were divorced some years later.

In 1980, Myrna was listed as being a journalist working in Melbourne [Australian Electoral Roll, 1980, Subdivision of Darling, 1705, p. 1]. In 1983, Myrna Apperly established a culinary business entitled ‘Alice Langton’s Kitchen’ to make her exclusive chocolate liqueur sauces and gourmet condiments from a kitchen she established at the rear of her house in Glen Iris. The brand was first named after husband Dick Apperly’s paternal grandmother, Alice Langton, the wife of Henry Wellsted Apperly of A.M.P. Society fame. The business continues to the present day at Mansfield, Victoria, under the banner of ‘Alice Langton’s Sauces’. In later life, Myrna Yvonne Apperly went to live in an apartment building developed by her son Stephen around 2000 at 65 Beach Street, Port Melbourne. She died in Melbourne on 21 May 2005 at the age of 68 years and was cremated two days later.

Until very recently, little was known about the architectural endeavours of Dick Apperly and David Barnett in the 1950s and early 1960s. Contact with two of Apperly’s long-standing academic colleagues in Sydney, Robert (Bob) Irving and Harry Stephens, proved fruitless as both parties recalled that Apperly did not discuss his life and achievements as an architect in private practice with them. However, my recent attempt to locate members of Dick Apperly’s family has resulted in contact and discussion with his second son Stephen Matthew Apperly, who lives in the Melbourne suburb of Kew and has custody of his father’s surviving archives. Whilst a review of this collection has failed to identify any relevant architectural drawings or files concerning Dick Apperly’s architectural practice in Sydney, a typescript résumé of his career as an architect in practice in New South Wales in the period from 1949 to 1966 has been located and made available to the writer. As well, a number of measured drawings connected with his Master of Architecture thesis and some early photographs of the Apperly House at Mosman as built in 1962-1963 survive in this collection [Fig. 6.35].

Information in Apperly’s curriculum vitae or résumé confirms that the firm of Adam, Wright and Apperly undertook the design of a comparatively large number of banks for the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Limited in suburban Sydney and rural NSW in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it being ‘a source of particular satisfaction that all of the jobs carried out for the most regular client (The E.S. & A. Bank Ltd.) were completed within the client’s budget allocations’ [R. E. Apperly ‘Career Résumé’ (1966) : Private Collection]. Apperly’s list includes branches of the E.S. & A. Bank at Wagga Wagga, Crookwell, Wingham, Port Kembla, Dulwich Hill, West Wollongong, Rockdale, Crows Nest and Jamberoo, as well as branches of the Commonwealth Bank at Concord West, Umina and Berala. One of their first commissions for the E.S. & A. Bank was for a new branch at Wingham on the Central North Coast in 1956. Richard Apperly designed this building in an uncompromisingly modern idiom, to conform to corporate stylistic parameters set up by the bank’s chief architect Stuart McIntosh in Melbourne. From 1953 to 1963 ‘McIntosh led a staff responsible for changing the bank’s look from heavy, stately buildings to lighter, avante-garde examples of modernist architecture’ [Igea Troiani, ‘Deserved Exposure : Stuart McIntosh’s Architecture, 1953-1963’, in *Fabrications*, 16:2, SAHANZ, December 2006, p. 31].





Fig. 6.36 E.S. & A. Bank, Wingham : Opened 3 September 1957 : Adam, Wright & Apperly, Architects  
E.S. & A. Bank, 105-107 Wentworth Street, Port Kembla (1958) : Adam, Barnett & Apperly, Architects  
[Internet]

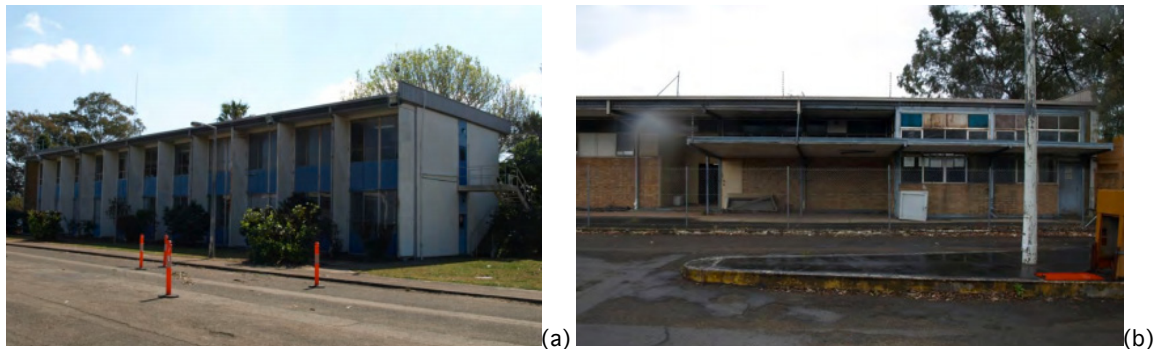


Fig. 6.37 Administration Building (a) and Amenities Building (b) : Shell Refinery at Clyde  
[AECOM Australia P/L, 'Clyde Terminal Historical Archaeological Assessment', Nov. 2013, pp. 32-33]

Dick Apperly designed both the Administration and Amenities buildings at the Shell Refinery at Clyde in 1958-1959 as simple rectangular plan structures with flat roofs and evidently built using the same salmon-coloured bricks as the firm used for the walls of the clubhouse at the Cheltenham Recreation Club in 1956 [Fig. 6.37]. Apperly also participated in several architectural competitions with unknown colleagues and architectural staff, to include entries for the Melbourne Olympic Stadium, the Sydney Opera House and the Reserve Bank, Canberra, ACT. The name of the firm was changed to Adam, Barnett and Apperly in 1956, they relocated to offices at 36 Carlow Street, North Sydney in 1961 and in 1964, the partnership was formally dissolved [NSW RIA Chapter *Bulletin*, Volume 21, No. 5 (1964), p. 2]. Richard Apperly continued to work under his own name from the same address until early 1966, when he wound up his practice in favour of a new vocation in the Faculty of Architecture in the University of New South Wales. It was around this time that he prepared the above cited career résumé, in which he listed houses at 4 Koowong Avenue, Mosman, 7 Werona Avenue, Lane Cove, and 2a Pindara Avenue, St. Ives, as his best residential works.

Richard Eric ‘Dick’ Apperly’s career as an academic in the University of New South Wales is much better understood. From the outset of his second career, Apperly further developed his long-standing intellectual interest in modern residential housing and the history of Australian architecture in his lectures, refereed papers, journal articles, Sydney walks, and publications. Apperly, with his friend Peter Lind, wrote *444 Sydney Buildings*, RAI, Sydney, 1971, and in 1972, Apperly completed a landmark study of Inter-War housing in Sydney as a Master of Architecture thesis in the UNSW [‘Sydney Houses 1914-1939’, M. Arch thesis, University of New South Wales, 1973]. Richard Eric Apperly contributed several entries to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and to Journals such as that published by SAHANZ (*Fabrications*).

He later contributed a chapter entitled ‘The Federation Period’ to his friend Robert (Bob) Irving’s compendium *The History & Design of the Australian House*, Melbourne, 1985 [pp. 86-115], and in 1989, his major work on Australian architectural styles was published. This encyclopedic and heavily illustrated tome, written in association with academic colleagues Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, as *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture : Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, North Ryde, NSW, 1989, dissected the architectural traditions of this country into chronological styles. Whilst not a new approach in the world of architectural history, the book has had a profound impact upon younger generations of Australian architects and architectural historians and still finds widespread use throughout Australia to the present day.

Dick Apperly rose through the academic ranks, teaching both architectural design and architectural history and focussing his research on the development of architecture in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C and early 20<sup>th</sup> C, both in Australia and overseas. He was appointed as a full-time lecturer in 1966, and in time became Head of the School of Architecture and Chairman of the Faculty (1984-1987) and at his retirement in 1990, he held the rank of associate professor. Apperly was also very active in Sydney community organisations and public affairs in New South Wales. He was a member of two National Trust of New South Wales committees and a member of the Board of Architects of NSW. From 1978 he was joint chief investigator of the annual Australian Expedition to Pompeii, and at the time of his death in March 1992, he was Director of the Professional Development Program in the Faculty of Architecture. In an endearing eulogy, Apperly’s close friend Peter Johnson noted that:

He was a person who quietly got on with the job without great fuss, nor demanding recognition. His contribution was immense—to architecture, which was his life—through his teaching and scholarship at the University of NSW, through his work for the National Trust and the NSW Chapter of the RAI and more recently through his appointment to the Board of Architects of NSW.

For 15 years before joining UNSW in 1966, he worked as an architect in practices which produced consistent and thoughtful buildings, not large in scale but with careful attention to detail, typical of his general approach. It was a thoroughly sound base for his future architectural academic career.

The commission to design a new clubhouse for the Cheltenham Recreation Club Limited likely came to Adam, Wright and Apperly in consequence of their long-established reputation as architects specialising in the design of clubhouses and pavilions for sports clubs in New South Wales. Research completed to date has established that the building is one of the first known works of architect Richard Eric Apperly in Sydney. It is representative of Apperly’s early excursions into the Post-War International Style but it is not in Apperly’s own short list of five buildings which he considered answered his client’s needs ‘especially well’. Nevertheless, it is in my assessment, a critical part of the large sports and recreational site at the Cheltenham Recreation Club, a place of local historical, social and spiritual significance.

## 7.0 ALLAN WILLINGHAM : BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE

### 7.1 Educational and Professional Qualifications

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1969  
Diploma of Architecture, Gordon Institute of Technology, Geelong, 1970  
Master of Architecture, (Architectural History), University of Melbourne, 1983  
Registered Architect 12390, State of Victoria  
Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York, UK, Short Conservation Courses, 1976  
Member Australia ICOMOS (joined in Paris in 1976)  
Member Royal Society of Victoria (MRSV)  
Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (FRHSV)  
Member Australian Garden History Society Inc.  
Ph.D candidate, University of Melbourne (2020) : Topic : ‘The Tennis Court : An Architectural History’

### 7.2 Expertise

I have practised in the specialised field of historic buildings conservation, cultural heritage evaluations and architectural history for over 50 years, a period which includes five years with the Commonwealth Department of Works (Victoria) working on the conservation of lighthouses, post offices and other Government owned historic places. I have also conducted a general architectural practice focussed on residential commissions since 1970 and have extensive experience in the design and construction of earth structures (houses and flats) at Mallacoota and Orbost, in the renovation, rehabilitation and extension of old houses and other heritage places throughout metropolitan Melbourne and elsewhere in Victoria, in the conservation of listed heritage places and in the design and construction of contemporary housing in urban and rural locations throughout this State. In this regard I have been responsible for all aspects of my practice, including building fabric surveys and faults diagnosis, the preparation of cost advice, contract administration and the inspection of building works. I have extensive full-time teaching and research experience in architecture and design, architectural history, building conservation and heritage practice at the Gordon Institute of Technology, Geelong (1974-1976) and at the University of Melbourne School of Architecture and Building (1977-1985).

I am a member of a number of specialist conservation and history organisations including Australia ICOMOS, (the international body of conservation practitioners) and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (Fellow and past vice-president). Local history is of particular interest to me, I was convenor of The Fitzroy History Society for 5 years and currently maintain membership in the Fitzroy, Geelong and Camperdown historical societies in Victoria. I am also a member of the Australian Garden History Society Inc., and the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust.

I was a member of the Historic Buildings Preservation Council in Victoria (1977-1981) and the Historic Buildings Council (1981-1990), and held the position of chairman of the Classifications Committee for 10 years. Since 1975, I have provided advice and assistance to building owners and other professional colleagues regarding heritage and urban conservation issues and have appeared regularly as an expert witness in heritage and conservation planning matters before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, the Historic Buildings Council, Heritage Victoria, the Building Appeals Board and the Supreme Court of Victoria. From March 1987 until December 2002 I conducted a weekly ‘Building Maintenance’ program on ABC Radio 774 Melbourne (3LO). In 1998 I completed an extended study of the cultural heritage of Camperdown in Victoria and prepared a conservation planning report on the township. This two-volume study was published in March 2000 and won the Victorian Community History Award (2001) in the community record and register category.

I have a comprehensive architectural, building, technological and horticultural library and take a keen interest in current developments in architecture, architectural history, tennis history, garden history and heritage conservation both in Australia and overseas. An extensive curriculum vitae, which sets out the scope and breadth of my experience and expertise in architecture, heritage and conservation, is available if required.