GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL

CONSERVATION PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ASSIGNMENT
SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

NOVEMBER 1994

The re-entry of patients to the community was also part of Dr. Manning's curative scheme, as was his notion that acute and chronic patients should remain in the one institution.

Dr. Manning was pleased to report that only 1% of patients in his care required physical restraint.(Garton, 1988) This was a far cry from the use of restraint and medication that would be used in the coming twentieth century.

However, during the 1880s the toxic theory of insanity led to the use of surgery to remove organs supposed to be the cause of mental disturbances. Chisholm Ross, who worked at Gladesville during the 1880s, performed surgery on organs such as the ovaries, colons, tonsils, adenoids, gall bladders uterus's and teeth in the hope of eliminating the toxic sources of insanity.

2.4.2 *The influence of Dr. Frederick Norton Manning*

In 1868, Dr. Frederick Norton Manning, after studying asylum administration and methods of treatment overseas, was appointed Medical Superintendent of Tarban Creek Asylum.

In a 200 page report, Manning set forth his recommendations for Tarban Creek Asylum

> *"Tarban Creek Asylum - be so altered as to bring it into harmony with institutes for the insane in the Mother country, but that no alterations that would demand an extravagant outlay should be made. The chief question of importance as regards this institution, is, the possibility of acquisition of land for agricultural purposes. Failing this the institution should like Parramatta, be abandoned as a lunatic asylum, Altered in particulars, and reorganised after European modes, it may serve as an asylum for 300 to 350 inmates (not more) for some years, but it should never be regarded in any way as one of the permanent institutions of the colony."* (F. N. Manning, 1868)

This report marked the beginning of new reforms in the treatment of the insane in NSW from 1868 onwards and the planting of a vineyard took place in the year of Manning's' appointment.

Manning was able to overcome the institutional and government inertia that Digby and Campbell experienced. Henry Parks and James Martin were liberal reformers in the parliament and supported lunacy reform and the proposals made by Manning. The government released funds for the upgrading of facilities in the colony and this was a time of great improvement to the buildings and grounds and the treatment of the mentally ill at Tarban Creek Asylum. Repairs were financed and overcrowding at the asylum was relieved by the opening of new asylums at Newcastle and the purchase of land for Callan Park Asylum.

Dr. Manning called the lunatics "patients" and showed great humanity towards them. He was responsible for many new buildings and improvements on the site and the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum became known as "Gladesville Hospital". He described the institution as follows:

"The present institution at Tarban Creek is in many ways unfitted for a hospital for the insane; its position is isolated, and as a consequence, supply is difficult and costly .... the greater part of the building is prison like and gloomy.... a chapel and amusement rooms, important accessories to such an institution are wanting."
(Godden & MacKay, 1992)

Most of Manning's recommendations were adopted. In 1869, large dormitories of wood and galvanised iron were erected. Women's dormitories were built in 1871.

The "Folly", c1870, combines Gothic and Classic design and was built as part of the elements of the gardenesque landscape with Italianate influences. As reported by James Kerr for the National Trust of Australia, the folly was

"The Roman surprise at the bottom of affluent gardens. Its location in a landscape of descending terraces and exotic trees looks pleasant beside the former main gate."

Associated elements reflecting the Italianate style for architectural ornamentation in the garden, are the Gothic steps and a small grotto found at this end of the site.

The laundry and workshops were built near the original buildings around 1873. James Barnett as Colonial Architect insisted on the use of sandstone for buildings and designed in the Classical style. His buildings were structurally sound with some excellent craftsmanship (Madden, 1994).

Manning suggested the need for a residence for the Medical Superintendent and so the two storey sandstone cottage built in 1887 probably became his the home with captivating views of the gardens of the asylum and of the river. The cottage was also located in a pivotal position along the pathway up from the wharf to the main buildings of the asylum.

According to Dawson (1965), Dr Manning handed over the supervision of Gladesville Hospital to Dr. Thomas Morgan Joseph and in 1882 Dr. Sinclair became Medical Superintendent. However, Dr. Manning maintained continued interest in Gladesville Hospital.

In 1881, large two storey sandstone wards were built on either side of the former kitchen and dining room, presently seen near the Victoria Road Gate side of the site.

Another sandstone building to accommodate the most dangerous cases was built in 1885. This large two storey sandstone ward links in with the additions to the original asylum building made under the instruction of Dr. Campbell. The only surviving ha-ha wall encloses its south east boundary. The ha-ha wall remains intact and is a feature commonly found in asylums throughout Europe and North America. Its purpose is to conceal the confinement of patients so as to maintain the vistas. It also shows a change in the care of the most seriously ill patients in that it gives them the freedom of outdoor spaces and unrestricted views.

Gas lighting was installed in 1887 and in 1888 the house and land known as the 'Priory' was purchased to provide additional farmland. It was originally surrounded with fruit trees. The food problem experienced by the Gladesville Hospital was solved in the 1880's by the

establishment of farms and gardens for vegetables and fruit. Pigs, poultry and cows were kept.

Walls were built to act as retaining walls for the cultivation of crops, vines and fruit trees. Garden walls were built during the gardenesque period under the influence of Manning and the directors of the Botanical Gardens.

By the 1880's, gardens had been laid out, new works had been built to alleviate crowding, amusements and outdoor employment had been introduced to patients. Active employment was encouraged for all patients, as the routine of labour was considered to be the essential cure for mental health by the moral reformers. Rest, work, food and sympathy were part of the cure. Henry Parkes declared:

> "*The Martin Government.. had the credit of throwing open the door and letting those unfortunate creatures have exercise in the open air...Since then the treatment of the insane in NSW had gone on improving until Gladesville had become a palace...*" (Speech by Henry Parkes, 1 Sept. 1885 quoted in Tucker, "Lunacy in Many Lands." pg 1559.)

When the Gladesville Bridge was opened in 1884, a secondary road system was installed at Gladesville Hospital leading off from Victoria Road.

By 1893, Gladesville Hospital was connected to piped water from the Nepean River and Dawson (1965) records that there were 1020 patients in 1890.

Baths were built in 1892 as an enclosure on the shore of the Parramatta River. They were probably seen as part of the increasing use of hydrotherapy in care and cure of the mentally ill.

With the 1890s came the Great Depression and new building work at the Gladesville Hospital practically ceased.

In 1897, Dr. Herbert Blaxland succeeded Dr. Sinclair as Medical Superintendent of Gladesville Hospital. The influence of significant people on Gladesville Hospital is less dramatic as in these early days and the pressures of the medical discoveries, financial constraints and the demands of patients and the community make it difficult for individuals on their own to make radical changes.

The cultural landscape and social structure of Gladesville Hospital under Dr. Manning, enhanced the care and treatment of the patients. He had successfully transformed the Tarban Creek Asylum of restraint, confinement and gloom into the Gladesville Hospital of unrestraint, employment, recreation and hope.

2.4.3   *The asylum landscape, continuity and social value*

It was the revivalist developments of the institution under the direction of Dr. Norton Manning that created a "more open, less constrained architectural style with landscaped grounds." (Godden & MacKay, 1992) A vineyard was planted during 1868 and by 1870 trees were planted and enclosed within substantial walls. (Godden & MacKay, 1992)

Lewis followed the principle (established in these earlier English models) of unobserved surveillance coupled with segregation of patients into male and female, with a further separation for "noisome" individuals, resulting in four departments. This formed the basis of Gladesville Hospital design with its four yards or airing courts and the tunnel-like passages, intended to allow the keeper to arrive unperceived, which divided them[12] (fig.3.8).

This planning principle determined the character and of the original hospital building and has influenced the character of all subsequent additions to it.

It has resulted in a cellular pattern of growth which is basically looking inwards.

3.2 The Penal Approach

Although, as previously stated, an English model was adopted in the care and treatment of the insane in Australia, it was shaped by the colonial experience, ie. penal character and military autocratic government.

There was a close association of criminality and insanity which was characterised by a penal approach to the treatment of the insane. This persisted well into the mid 19th century.

As late as 1838, handcuffs and leg-irons were still used as restraints and up until the 1880s, people were arrested by police and committed to asylums by a magistrate's order.[13]

This influenced the design of the original Gladesville complex where patients were confined to cells and virtually imprisoned within the walled airing yards.

4.0 Manning's Reforms (- The Hill Branch Group and the Terraced Gardens).

The Hill Branch Group, developed as a second major phase of the complex c1877-1907 is in complete contrast to the Original Building Group (refer plan identifying groups).

The impetus behind its development and the planning principles embodied in this group of buildings can be directly linked to the reforms of Dr. Frederick Norton Manning.

He helped develop a sound legislative basis for the administration of public asylums and sought to change staff and public attitudes through staff training and public visits. This resulted an opening up of the asylum system in terms of accountability and public image - shaking off the "penal" taint.

Like Callan Park Hospital, the 1877 Hill Branch complex was constructed as a series of detached pavilions with verandahs for shade and shelter. The complex overlooked vineyards and gardens which were terraced to the water.

[12] ibid.
[13] Milton Lewis.

The gardens and grounds were extensively developed under his administration both as pleasure gardens and as productive cultivated land. The later Admissions Block building, although stylistically different, enjoys the same elevated outlook as the earlier building.

Manning's idea that asylums should be located on abundant land in rural or outer urban areas[14] found expression in the Hill branch Group and the associated terraced gardens.

5.0 Movement Systems (-Axial and Cross Axial Patterns).

A study of the principle routes of travel to and within the hospital complex reveals a set of movement systems which have changed over time.

The earliest form of transport to the hospital complex was by boat along the Parramatta River to a jetty on the hospital foreshore. An 1844 map (fig.3.3) shows the Great North Road following what is now the western boundary of the hospital site, north from Bedlam Point.

This section of road later became Punt Road when The Great North Road was redirected to the southeast, to the new river crossing at Five Dock Point shown on an 1861 (fig.3.2). The map shows this new section of road as the "Road to Balmain and Sydney".

The redirection of the Great North Road would have had an impact on the patterns of water and land transport to the asylum, possibly diminishing the importance of direct water access in favour of road access via the Punt Road entry.

This in turn would have an effect on the significance of the formal axial route from the river to the original building, within the hospital itself.

Similarly the construction of the Hill Branch Group and the growing importance of the "Road to Balmain and Sydney" which became the New Bridge Road with the construction of the Gladesville bridge may have resulted in a loss of significance of the Punt Road entry from what is today Victoria Road.

In the first half of the 20th century, in order to accommodate vehicular access within the hospital site itself, a system of roadways was superimposed over the original paths of travel which had been determined by pedestrian patterns of movement. Pedestrian movement generally cut across the contours (eg. the axial route from the river). In contrast, the vehicular pattern of movement was characterised by a cross axial traversing of the site along the contours. This is the way in which the site is experienced today.

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[14] ibid.

Gladesville Hospital
A walk in your past
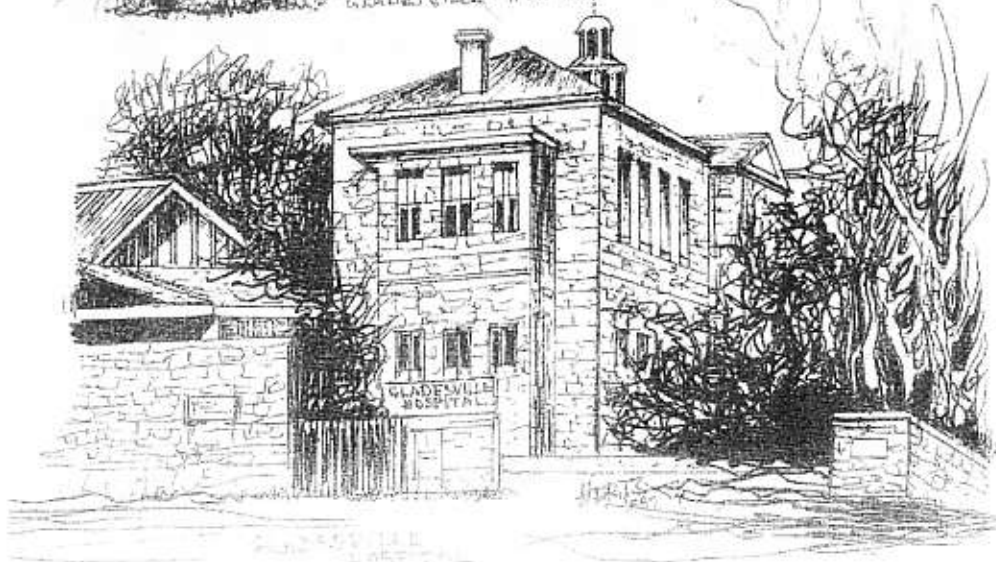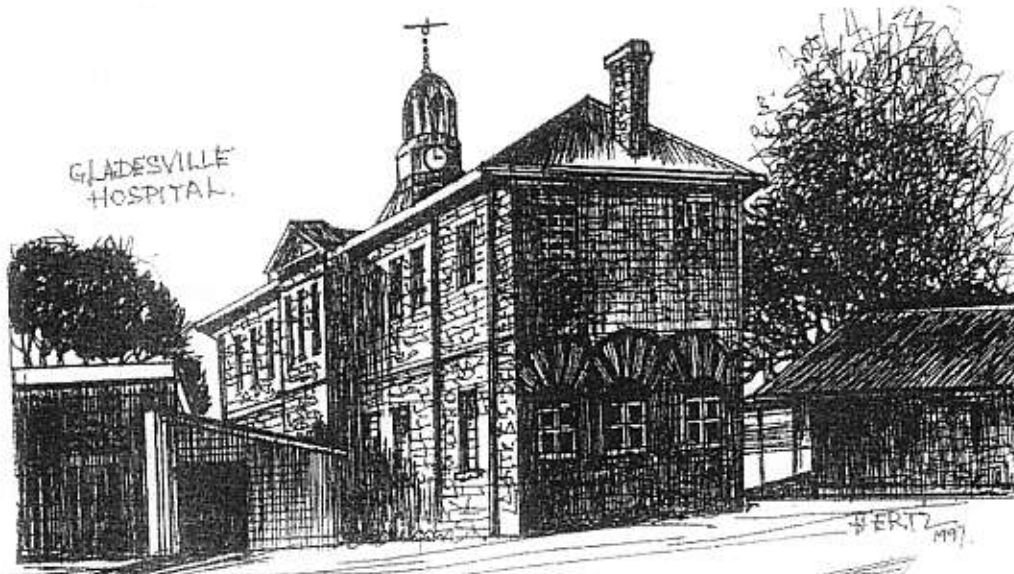
A Brief History of Gladesville Hospital

Gladesville derives its name from JOHN GLADE, a settler who was in the district as early as 1806, according to the Sydney Gazette Glade purchased land in 1817 from one DOODY, who obtained a grant in March, 1795, and is noted in the Grant Records that apparently Ann Benson acquired the land at this stage. Glade still held the property in 1822. He also settled on a 50-acre grant promised him by Macquarie. Although he was in occupation for many years, no deed was issued.

The next step in the development of this area was the erection of the asylum for lunatics.

When Captain Phillip arrived on these shores, his commission included a statement as to his duties regarding "the care and commitment of the custody of idiots and lunatics and their estates". By 1805 the beginnings of State care for the mentally ill had been set in motion and by 1810 a formal board for certification and discharge was in existence. We cannot be surprised to find that there were among those transported to Botany Bay many persons of deficient intellect, a condition exacerbated by the excessive amount of rum drunk in the Colony.

As a first step in dealing with the increasing "pool of mental invalids who although not a menace, were a nuisance to the community at large", certified lunatics were segregated in the Town Hall at Parramatta. In 1811, Governor Macquarie founded the first mental asylum at Castle Hill, under the Superintendence of Mr. G. Suttor, with the Rev. S. Marsden as Supervisor, but by 1825 the buildings were overcrowded and 30 men and 12 women were removed to a renovated Court 'House at Liverpool, to the great inconvenience of the magistrates. As the lunatics were all convicts, the government of the day considered that their care should be a charge on England, and not on New South Wales, and a long discussion began. In 1829, Sir Thomas Brisbane suggested that an asylum should be built at Elizabeth Bay. In 1835 Governor Bourke wrote a very insistent letter to the Hon. Spring Rice, and it was at last decided to build on the Parramatta River.

In September, 1835, Surveyor H.F. White went to Tarban Creek to measure three portions of land applied for as a purchase by Thomas Stubbs. He was unable to carry out his instructions and wrote to that effect to the Surveyor-General. The Deputy Surveyor-General noted on White's letter that the sales were to be suspended as one of the lots was required as a paddock for the lunatic asylum, a landing was to be reserved, and, wrote Perry, "nobody but a madman would want to buy the rest". White was then instructed to prepare a detailed survey of the ground for a lunatic asylum.

At this time, people who lived on the shores of the Parramatta River were isolated and travelled, if at all, by little paddle steamers, or by privately owned rowboats. In 1829, a formal petition for a punt from Kissing Point to join up with the Great North Road, was sent to the Governor, and this was provided in 1829. The punt remained in use until the opening of the

Gladesville Bridge, half a century after, though it was not always in the same place.

The site chosen for the asylum was known as "Bedlam Point', where Tarban Creek enters the Parramatta River. The building was designed by Mortimer Lewis in 1835, the year of his appointment to office as Colonial Architect, an office he held for the unusually long period of 14 years. His first design was in the simple tradition of the rectangular facade with the small break forward in the centre, surmounted by the pediment roof. Lewis added considerable sophistication to the rather naive earlier work, with a portico designed with Ionic columns, one of the first examples in Australia of the use of these more ornate forms, earlier columns having usually been made in the simple Doric form.
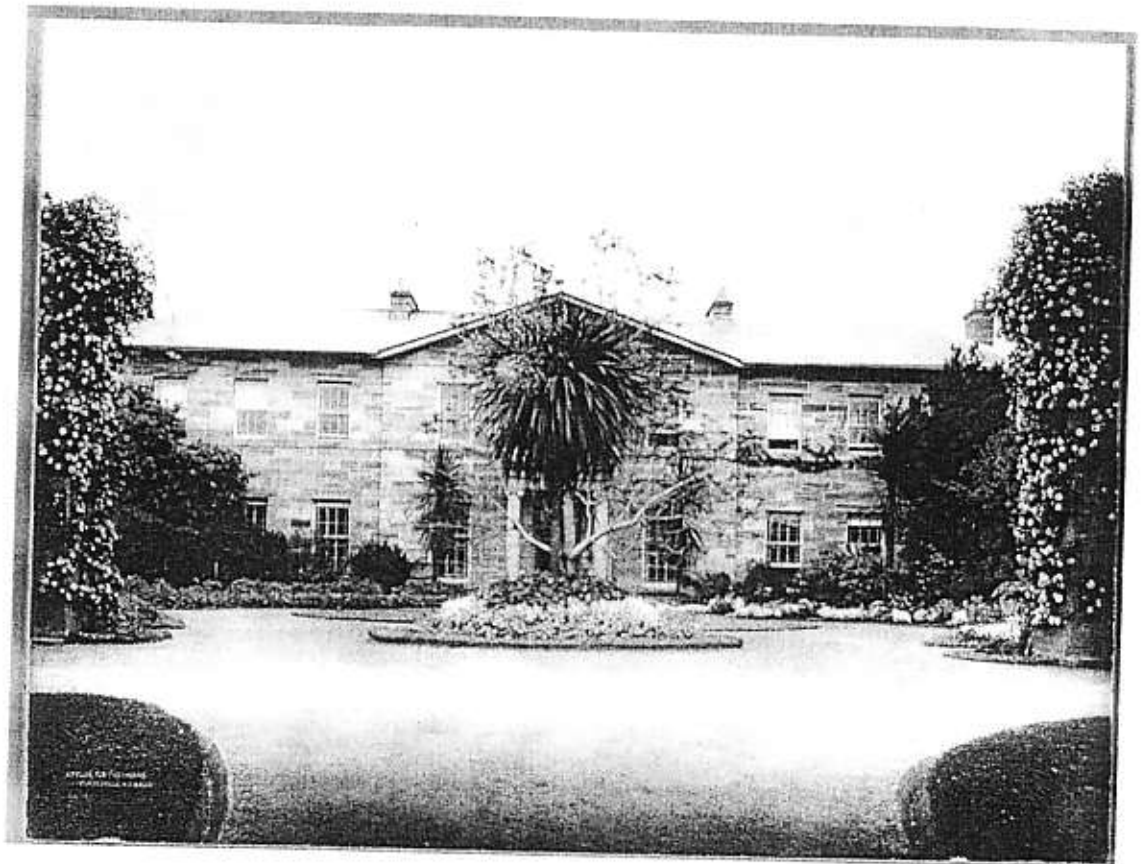

The Ionic capitals had to be carved by hand made possible by the now increasing immigration of highly skilled craftsmen. Other works by Lewis are:

- The Darlinghurst Courthouse,
- Hartley Courthouse,
- Berrima Courthouse,
- Sydney Police Station,
- Church of St John the Evangelist,
- Camden and Richmond Villa, recently removed from behind Parliament House.

He was also responsible for creating the semi-circular curve of Sydney Cove.

The new building at Tarban Creek, was estimated to cost 4000 pounds but was completed at 3,500 pounds. During the actual building, Lewis changed the proportions of his design, making the building wider and more squat. The Pediment was replaced by a simple gable and finished with a square head, instead of the narrow arched door originally planned. The building was of stone with a slate roof. This building, near the Punt Road gates, then the main entrance to the Asylum, looks out over the bay but is masked from the entrance by more recent buildings.

Elevation of the Front Entrance

Upper Storey   *Ground Plan*
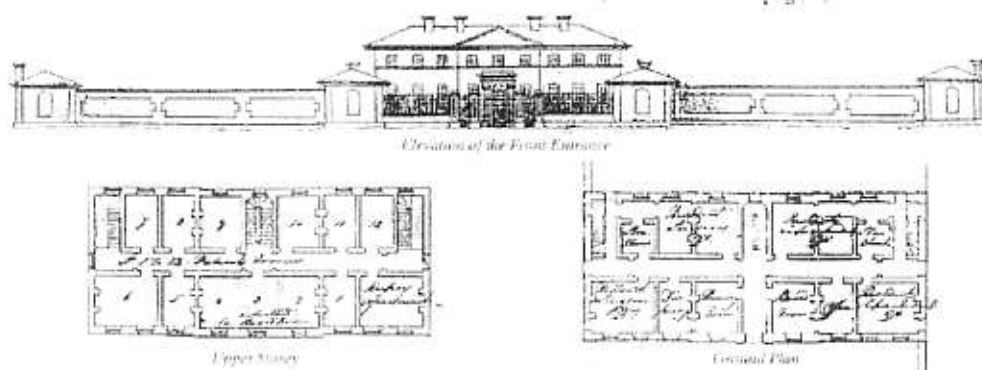
2.1.5 Designs for Public Buildings 1837, AO NSW, X693, Reel 2660

In 1839, Dr. McLean applied for the position of resident medical officer. The first Keeper, or Steward, was Joseph Thomas Digby, who had previously been employed in English asylums. He arrived in June or July 1838 with his wife who was to act as matron. Digby clashed with the architect over the darkness of the corridors and suggested skylights. Lewis replied that this was planned "so that the Keeper should not easily be perceived moving from one group of cells to another." This explanation and the lower cost, satisfied the Governor.

A question arises as to why the site was originally named "Bedlam Point", since the term seems to have been in use long before the asylum was built. The earliest reference occurs in the Sydney Gazette on December 20, 1820. In 1827, the Master Attendant reported that the house occupied by the Signal Man at Bedlam is in a very dilapidated condition. In New South Wales Calendar and Directory for 1834, the following occurs in a description of the North Road via Bedlam Point.

"9½ miles ... on the right Bedlam, a lunatic asylum, now deserted and in ruins. There is a signal staff here, named the Bedlam Point Telegraph intermediate between Sydney and Parramatta."

Here is a definite statement that an asylum stood on the land, but despite this statement, there is no evidence whatever to support it. The building described was probably the old dilapidated house of the signalman.

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On December 8, 1844, in the "Sydney Morning Herald" the following article appeared:

"The Lunatic Asylum at Tarban Creek has now within its walls 144 patients ... Mr. and Mrs. Digby, who have the superintendence of the establishment, appear to be perfectly au-fait in the matter having had considerable experience in England. Dr. Lee, the medical superintendent appears to possess the confidence of the patients. The whole of the place is remarkable for its cleanliness. Around the grounds attached to the establishment a very considerable quantity of fencing has been put up by the patients themselves, let out two or three at a time, under the care of the keepers; a terrace is now being constructed in front of and around the building..."

In spite of this eulogy, in 1846 an enquiry was held in Sydney as to the treatment of the inmates of the asylum, as a result of which Dr. Francis Campbell, M.A. M.D., was appointed as the first Superintendent in 1848. At his retirement 20 years later he wrote:

"... Shortly after my election I entered on the duties of my office on the 1st January, 1848. I soon discovered that the disclosures made in 1846 were not exaggerated, both the male and female inmates were openly undergoing an unmerciful degree of severe and rough breaking in, if I may so speak, not from, any savageness of disposition or motives of cruelty on the part of those in charge of them. It was the hereditary system of inhuman expediency transmitted from one generation of unreflecting men to another for God knows, how many thousand years. So, with prudence and resolution for my guide, I began to introduce, gradually, a charge in that revolting mode of manging the lunatics which to that time was a very dark and disgusting blemish on the character of the Colony; and before the expiration of 6 months I had the satisfaction of having set the corporeal part of every insane man and woman in the asylum as free as a zephyr on the mountain top, I think for ever. Of course the disenthralment of their minds was the paramount object to be achieved, and though the lesser necessarily took precedence of the greater, at the beginning, they ran on parallel lines ever after."

In 1919 a paper was presented to the Royal Australian Historical Society (R.A.H.S.Journal, Vol.v, Part VI) by W.S. Campbell, then a very old man, and son of Dr. Francis Campbell, the first Superintendent, which gives a lively picture of the district and of the people in it:

"There were a few houses scattered about in the immediate vicinity of the asylum, some of which were occupied by officials and the others by private persons. The little hamlet was known as "Tarban Creek"; not more, altogether, than 20 houses. There were two good sized cottages close to the asylum, separated from the grounds by a narrow lane. One was occupied by Mr. Thomas Stubbs, a well-known Sydney auctioneer, and the other by Mr.Thomas Fisher barrister, son-in-law of W.C.Wentworth ... Many years afterwards the two cottages were resumed by Government, and Mr. Edward

Betts, lived there with his mother and her family. Mrs. Betts was a daughter of the Rev. Samuel Marsden.

."The small watercourse and saltwater cove named Tarban Creek rises in the angle formed by the junction of the Ryde Road from Hunter's Hill with the Great North Road, flowing thence for little more than a mile into saltwater, where it expands into a long bay of the Parramatta River. Some little distance above saltwater the creek widened into a large and deep waterhole. At the head of the saltwater, an area of 18 acres had been granted to Thomas Stubbs ... Near the summit of the rocks on the opposite side of the creek, a little higher up, a stone cottage had been built long before 1848. This was occupied by a Mr. Heywood. At the head of saltwater, on a flat below Villa Maria, a boiling-down works were once in operation. There were a few remains of buildings lying about, as well as numbers of brokenup bones amongst the rocks which were bare at low water.

"Most of the country in the vicinity of the river was in its primeval condition in 1848 and for about 5 years afterwards, and was exceedingly beautiful .... At Bedlam Ferry the steamers stopped in mid-stream and passengers were taken to and from them by the puntman, who made a small charge. Such an arrangement for landing was as awkward as it was disagreeable. At Bedlam Ferry was the only place 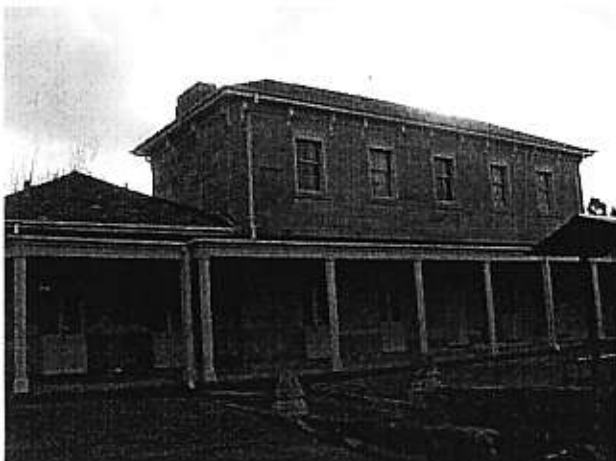where the inhabitants of the district around could board the steamers, some of them were obliged to travel long distances. Mr. D.N. Joubert either walked or was driven by his daughter in a gig, almost daily, from Lane Cove. At times, generally twice a week, there was a considerable amount of traffic across the river, in the very early mornings and late at nights, when numbers of orchardists from far and wide drove their loaded fruit carts to the Sydney markets in George Street. The noise of their "coo-ees" for the puntman often kept me awake at night."

Dr. Campbell was succeeded as superintendent by Dr. F. Norton Manning, a member of an old Hunter's
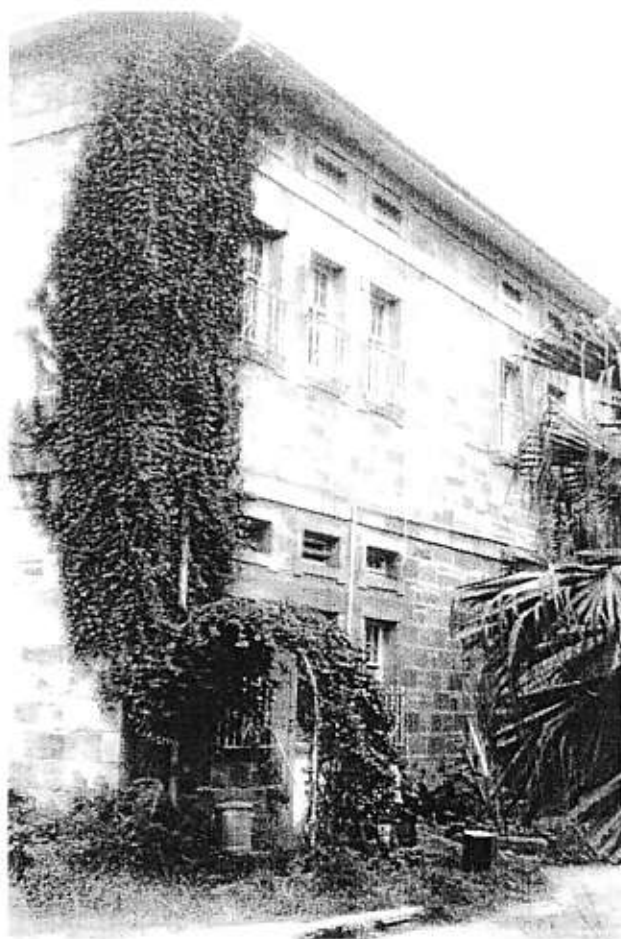
Hill family, and cousin to Mr. Justice Manning. Formerly a naval surgeon, Dr. Manning suffered so severely from sea-sickness that he had to give up seafaring and to act as medical officer at the Mental Hospital until Dr. Campbell's retirement. Dr. Manning's name is still revered for his humanity towards his patients, to whom he insisted on giving that name instead of "lunatics" He was responsible for many improvements and new, buildings on the site. He described the institution as follows:

"The greater part of the building is prison-like and gloomy. The Kitchen, stores and other offices are utterly unfitted for the purpose to which they are at present applied; and chapel and amusement rooms, important accessories to such an institution, are wanting."

Recommendations were made to Parliament for erection of a piggery and a byre, extension of accommodation for patients and staff, and acquisition of an adjoining 28 acre property for agricultural land, a superintendent's house and improved recreation facilities for patients. Large dormitories of wood and galvanised iron were erected in 1869 and a two-storey building for women in 1871. This is to be seen near the Victoria Road gate.

Gas lighting was installed in 1887.

In 1888, a considerable property was added to the Asylum grounds. This was the house and land known as "The Priory". The original grant was to Thomas Stubbs, who built a house on it. This property was purchased and the house considerably enlarged, by the Marist Fathers in 1847, as a home for the French Mission. Father Rocher twice added to estate, and in 1874 the older part of the property was sold -to the Salter family for 2,000 pounds. The present function of "The Priory" is as a dormitory ward, a kind of hostel for rehabilitated patients who still need some supervision. It was originally surrounded by fruit trees from St. Helena.

Map Position: 11

Name   oval and boathouse
Original Use   A new boathouse designed by Vernon was built in 1898 on the footings of the 1839 boathouse. The area of the oval was excavated and filled to form the cricket pitch and terraces in 1950 and seawall built during 1955-57.

Map Position: 12

Name   Garden Folly c 1870's
Original Use   Part a terraced 19th century garden complex containing the remains of a glasshouse and a lavatory with vaulted roof. Over the years it has also been used as Guest House and Gardener's Area. It was surrounded by terraced rose Gardens. Most likely its design was part of Dr Manning's plan to create recreational garden areas and it is very much out of character for the Government Architect's office at the time. (Barnet 1862-1890)

Map Position: 13

Name   Medical *Superintendent's Residence (1878) Barnet*

Original Use   A two-storey sandstone residence with slated hip roof and galvanized iron roof over verandah first used by Dr Norton Manning. Dr Manning was a member of an old Hunter's Hill family and cousin to Mr. Justice Manning. Formerly a naval surgeon, he suffered so severely from seasickness that he had to give up seafaring and worked as a medical officer at Tarban Creek Asylum. He was appointed to undertake a review into Mental Health Services in 1867 and the next year was appointed as Medical Superintendent. He introduced many initiatives which reflected changes in mental health services at the time. He changed the name from Tarban Creek Asylum to Gladesville Hospital in 1870 and was responsible for many improvements and new buildings on the site.

Dr Manning described the institution as follows: "The greater part of the building is prison-like and gloomy. The Kitchen, stores and other offices are utterly unfitted for the purpose to which they are at present applied; and chapel and amusement rooms, important accessories to such an institution, are wanting." Recommendations were made to Parliament for new institutions in NSW and improvements at Gladesville. The building was renovated in 1995 - 97 as the home for the Medical Tribunal and now used as administration. Prior to living here Dr Manning had lived at a Waiwera on Woolwich Rd in a large Charles Jeanneret built house.

Map Position: 14

Name   Female Convalescent Ward (1893) Vernon
Original Use   This was his first work in the hospital and the first significant building in brick. It is still in use as accommodation for long term residents.

Map Position: 15

THE HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIA

The Illustrated Register of the National Estate

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the 1890s, as introduced by W. L. Vernon.

The Public School comprises a single-storey school building (1877) and the residence 'Eulbertie'. The Victorian Gothic Revival school building was designed by G. A. Mansfield and is constructed of coursed ashlar sandstone with a steeply pitched slate roof.

Within the area are a number of institutions which form prominent groups, including St Joseph's College and the Gladesville Hospital.

The Gladesville Mental Hospital Precinct comprises a complex of buildings grouped around a small valley rising from the Parramatta River. From the cove the ground rises through natural slopes and scarps in a concave 'theatre', the boundary road forming the rim. Landscaped terraces, now partly overgrown, have been built below the natural scarps overlooking Parramatta River. Furnishings include 'The Guest House', a Victorian garden folly, deep in overgrowing vegetation, which resembles a tiny cottage, with a hipped roof and a dormer gable over a pedimented, pilastered entrance.

Parts of the Precinct are defined by sandstone walls which were erected in the 19th century, giving a sense of enclosure to the more secluded landscaped areas. Outside the wall, at the eastern end of the Precinct, is a cypress grove (formerly the Asylum cemetery)

which contains a monument of Frederick Norton Manning, a pioneer in the development of mental care in New South Wales, and at Gladesville in particular.

The site contains the first purpose-built lunatic asylum in New South Wales, where the first Steward, John Thomas Digby, and later Frederick Norton Manning, worked and fought to improve mental hygiene in 19th-century New South Wales. The institutional buildings were constructed from 1836 into the early 19th century. Although they vary in style, they are unified by the predominant use of sandstone ashlar.

The original quadrangular asylum ranges were built 1836-8 and designed by Mortimer Lewis. The central block is a two-storey, nine-bay sandstone range with three bays breaking slightly forward in the centre under a pedimented roof. An Ionic portico protects the central door. This block was flanked by single-storey stone ranges for the accommodation of patients in both single rooms and dormitories. These buildings have been changed internally and a second floor of rendered brick has been added. The ground-floor stonework to the north-east courtyards has been rendered. An imposing access to the driveway leading to the original buildings is formed by the Punt Road Gates. The carriage gates are flanked by two pedestrian gates, pike and rail, and framed by

four massive square-section sandstone posts with shallow pyramid caps.

Wards 17 and 18 are large two-storey sandstone buildings (1880-1), sited on either side of the former kitchen and dining room. The hipped roofs, originally slate clad, are now tiled. The surrounding iron-roofed verandahs are now glazed.

The Medical Records Department is a single-storey cottage built in sandstone with tiled gabled roof, iron lean-to verandah and fretted barges.

The Pottery Building is a single-storey structure in sandstone with a slate-clad hipped roof, built along and outside the wall west of the cypress grove. There is a low, wide ventilating lantern and large chimney-stack. An arched tower structure stands at the southern end of the building.

The former Medical Superintendent's Residence is a two-storey building in sandstone with a slate-clad hipped roof and lean-to iron verandah to ground floor, which is harmoniously sited on a scarp overlooking Parramatta River.

The Doctor's Residence comprises a mirrored pair of single-storey semi-detached cottages in textured sandstone with smooth quoins and window surrounds. The twin gable fronts, side by side, are flanked by wooden-posted verandahs with lean-to roofs. The main roofs, slate-clad, have fretted barges. The front windows are paired and round-arched.

The Gatekeeper's Lodge is a single-storey cottage built in sandstone with a tiled roof both hipped and gabled, iron lean-to verandah and fretted barges.

The Gatekeeper's Cottage is a small single-storey cottage in sandstone with a slate roof, and gabled front flanked by partly enclosed verandah with bell-cast lean-to iron roof. It is now used as an institutional museum.

In 1888 the Hospital acquired 'The Priory' on the western slopes of Tarban Creek valley. The two-storey sandstone residence was erected in the 1840s, and has a nine-bay lean-to verandah along the entire east face. The west face features a gable. The hipped roof is slate-clad and eaves are supported by Italianate brackets. Sited at the north-east corner of Hospital extensions on the other side of Victoria Road, it may be regarded as an outwork of the Hospital Precinct.

Although the Hunters Hill Conservation Area includes some industrial development and unsympathetic residential development (dating from the 1940s), the area has generally retained its character as an exceptional low-density garden suburb, which includes many historic buildings and structures.