

1) ALLWOOD RESIDENCE AND 2) GARDEN, 3) TWO CABBAGE PALMS (*Cordyline australis*), 4) TWO THREAD PALMS (*Washingtonia robusta*), 5) GROUP OF FOUR PEPPERCORNS (*Schinus molle*) AT THE REAR AND 6) SITE, N.E. CNR. HURSTBRIDGE-ARTHURS CREEK ROAD, HEIDELBERG-KINGLAKE ROAD, HURSTBRIDGE.

BUILT:

1894¹
1900S - FRONT GARDEN PLANTED
AFTER 1914 CABBAGE TREE PALM/S (*Cordyline australis*) PLANTED ON ONE/EITHER SIDE OF THE FRONT DOOR
1970S AND 1980S ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS INCLUDING BULLNOSE VERANDAH
1991/1992 KITCHEN DEMOLISHED AND BULLNOSE VERANDAH REPLACED WITH ONE MATCHING ORIGINAL ROOF SHAPE

THEMES ILLUSTRATED BY THIS PLACE:

EARLY SETTLEMENT
TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PROMINENT RESIDENTS

BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

ILLUSTRATION OF THEMES
HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
HORTICULTURE
STREETScape

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE:

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

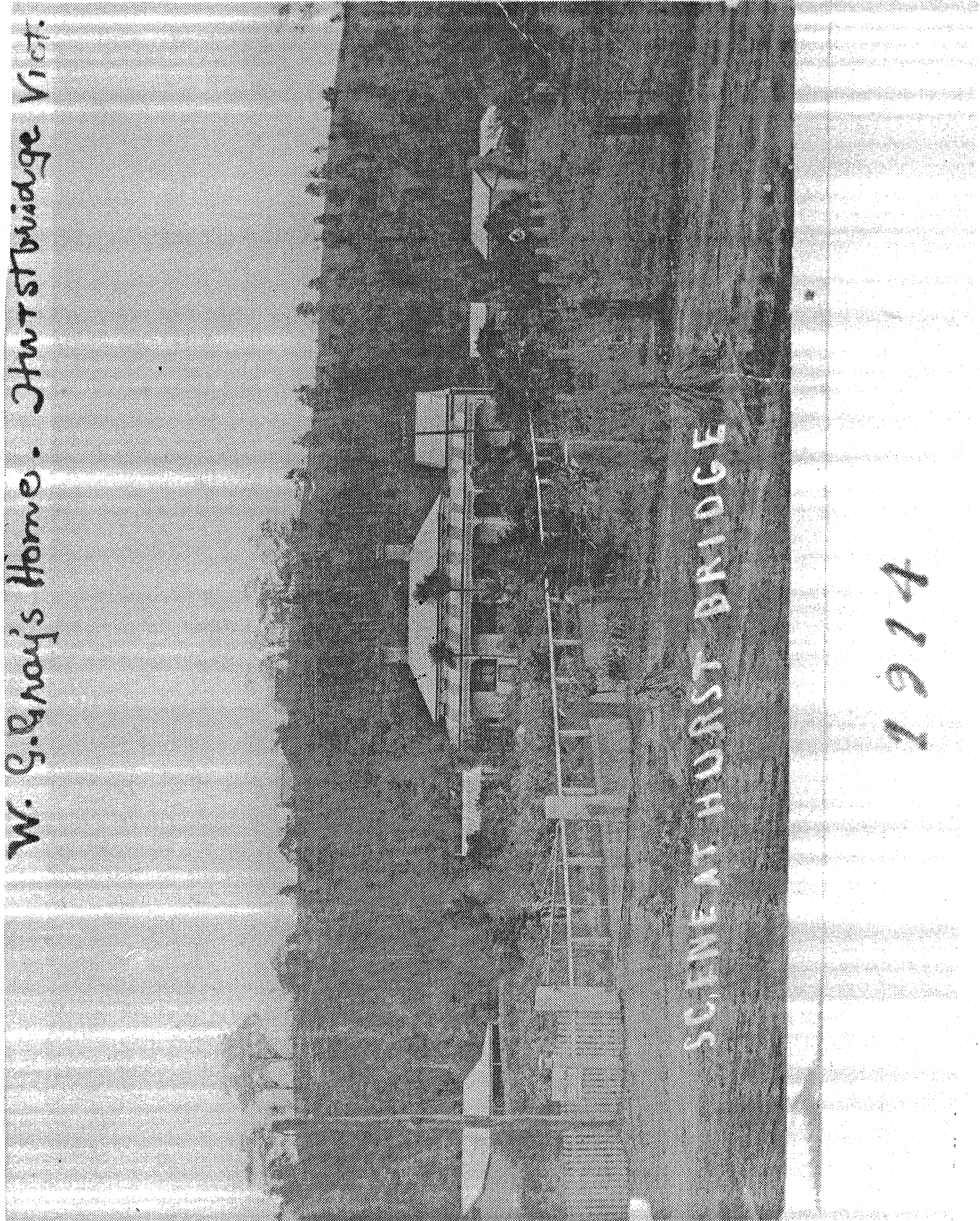
ENTIRE RESIDENCE, TWO REAR OUTBUILDINGS, IN-GROUND TANK, ALL OF THE GARDEN AND SITE TO A RADIUS OF 50 METRES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOCAL PLANNING PROTECTION
CONSERVATION AREA - HURSTBRIDGE

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

ALLWOOD AT PROBABLY ITS GREATEST EXTENT IN 1914 - NOTE THE
YOUNG GARDEN, SIDE ADDITIONS AND PAINTED VERANDAH ROOF
(ELHPC NO. 1042)



W. G. Gray's Home. Hurstbridge Vict.

SCENE AT HURST BRIDGE

1914

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.



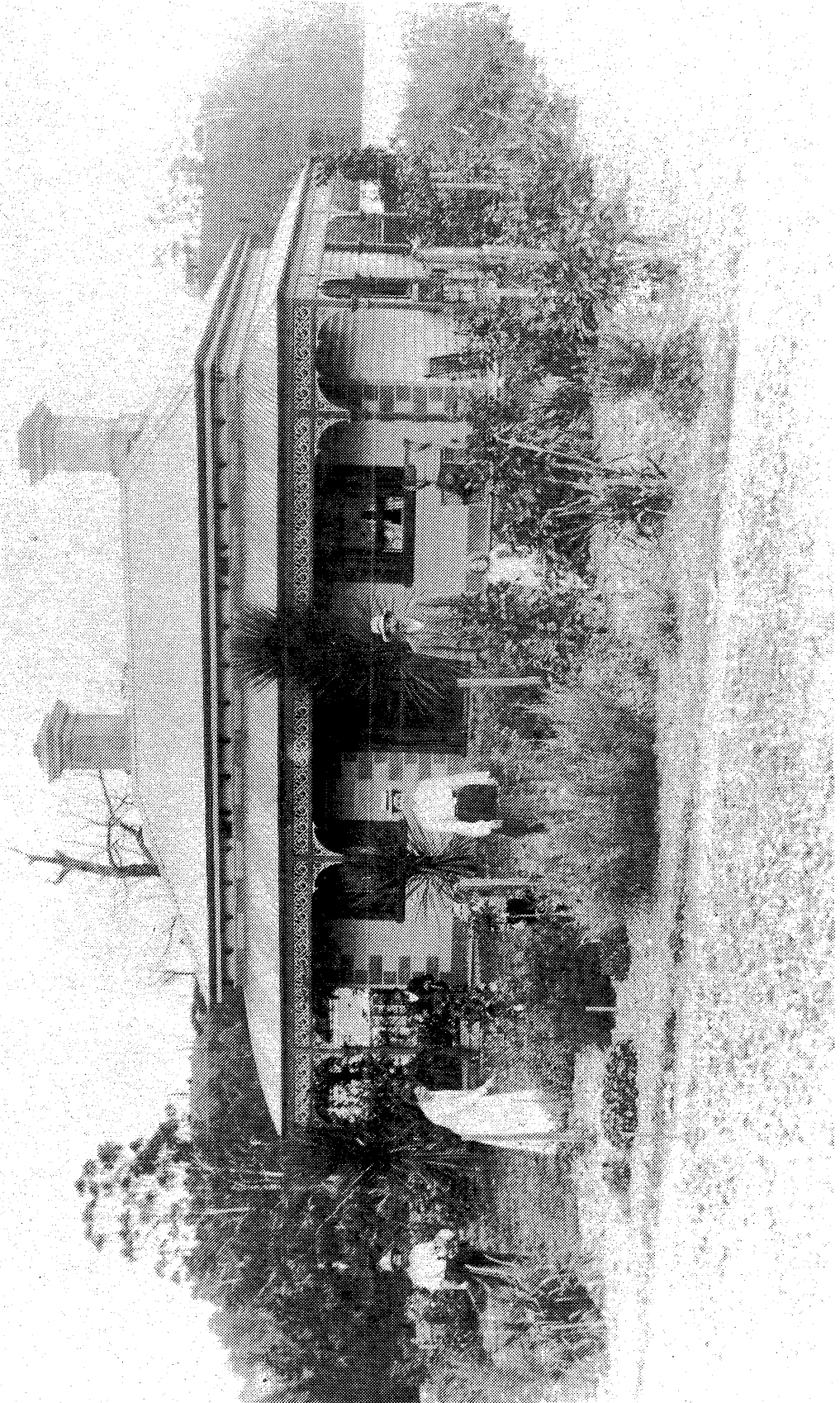
CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Now in the centre of Hurstbridge township, Allwood was originally the local orchardist's house and is on the site of the area's pioneering homestead. The timber house has been substantially altered and added to in the last 15 years and is one of probably fewer than a dozen examples of this standard late nineteenth century and 1900s timber house surviving anywhere in the Shire. Allwood is one of, if not the oldest building in this area and pre-dates any township development. The first owner of the house, William Gray, was a prominent local figure and Hurstbridge was previously called Allwood after the property (up until 1924). Pioneer settler Henry Hurst, whose grandniece married Gray, lived in the homestead on the site that preceeded the present residence.

The remnants of the garden and its surviving plants are integral components of Allwood and its cultural significance. They illustrate garden fashions typical of the late 19th and early 20th century and their adoption by an early settler at Hurstbridge in the first decades of this century, the same time as he ran a commercial plant nursery on the site, is of particular interest. Both the species selection (particularly the several palms) and the formal layout of key elements such as the Cabbage Palms (originally on either side of the front

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

*IN 1905? - NOTE THE APPARENTLY MODEST SCALE OF THE GARDEN THEN
AND THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF PALMS AGAINST THE FRONT VERANDAH
(ELHPC NO. 1022?)*



Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

door?), garden arch on the axis of the front door and the regular spacing of the palms along the northern boundary, are all of significance. The arrangement of the garden into different spaces, with a quite formal section in front of the house and the less formal and more diversely planted remainder, is an important feature. The individually identified trees are significant for their size, species and major role in this early 20th century garden.

HISTORY:

Original and Later Use:	Residence ¹
Current Use:	Neighbourhood House
Original Owners:	William and Frances Gray ¹
Later Owners:	Frances Gray ⁵ 1951-1975 Sheila Ferguson (Gray's daughter) and Gordon Ferguson ⁵ 1975- Shire of Eltham ⁶
Builder/Artisan:	Verso ¹

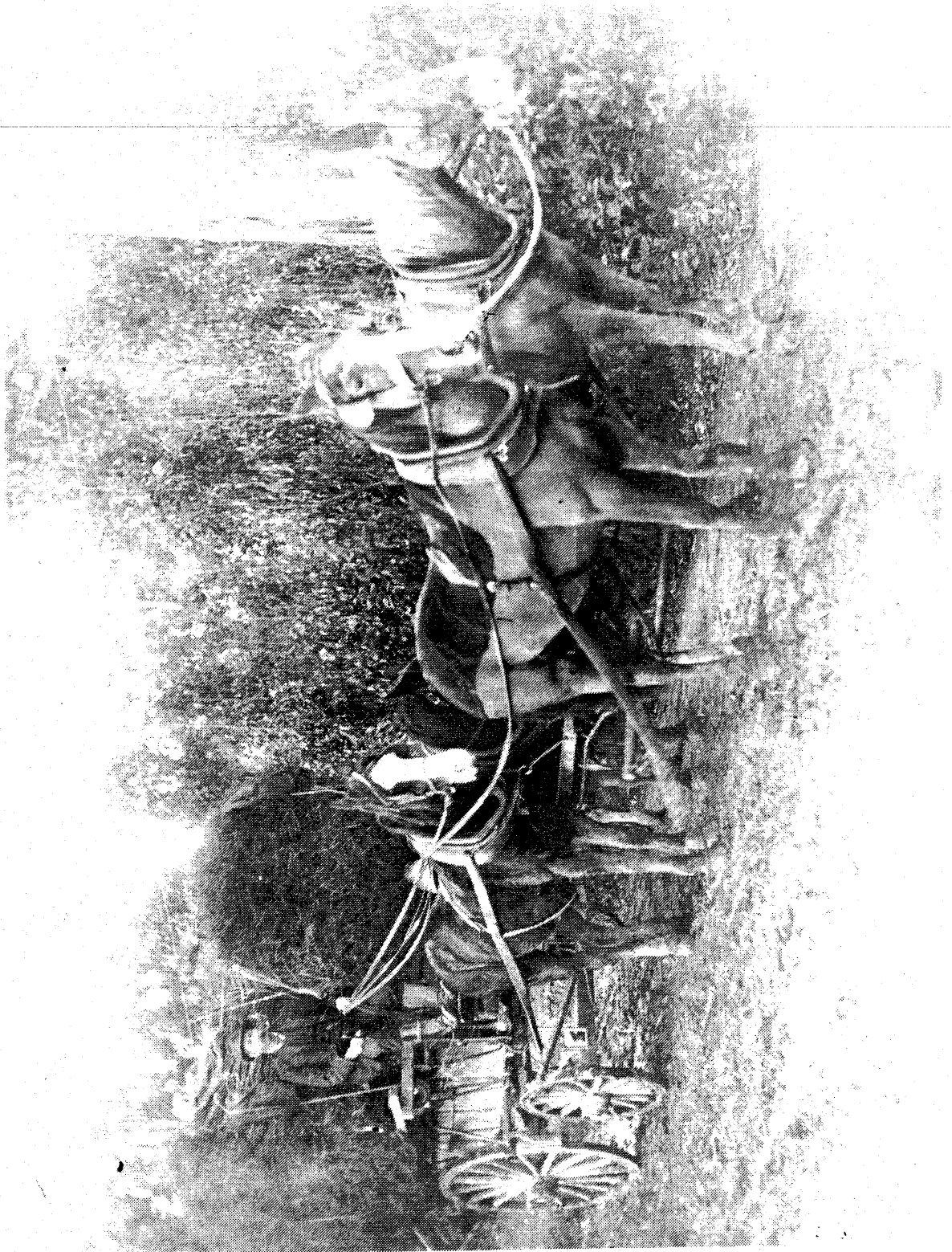
Allwood's first owner William Gray owned an extensive nursery and large areas of orchards, including 30 acres at Hurstbridge, 20 acres at Clier Hills near Cottles Bridge and 100 acres at Kinglake. His nursery business boomed from the early 1900s, when it supplied most of the orchards in the area.⁴ Gray's wife Frances was grandniece of Henry Hurst, who managed the first settler Cornelius Haley's property at Hurstbridge from around 1852 until 1866, when he was killed by the bushranger Burke.⁵ Hurst's family remained in the district and purchased Haley's cattle station, the site of Allwood. The previous house at Allwood survived behind the present Allwood until 1942. Gray was Eltham's Shire President for two terms but the family's fortunes were ruined due to calamities in the World War I period and the Great Depression.⁵ After Gray died, Allwood was leased until his daughter, Sheila, and her husband Gordon Ferguson moved into it in 1951, after buying it from other family members. In 1975, the property was designated a passive recreation reserve by the Shire. As a consequence, the Ferguson family sold most of the land, leaving the house on little over an acre.⁴ It is currently owned by the Shire of Eltham.⁶

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

*WILLIAM G. GRAY PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1921 WITH CAPT. BRUCE (LATER LORD
BRUCE AND PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA) (ELHPC NO. 1059)*







WILLIAM GRAY TRANSPORTING A TREE FROM KINGLAKE CIRCA 1918
(ELHPC NO. 1043)

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

DESCRIPTION:

House

Style late Victorian.

Design standard late 19th century and 1900s design.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls timber stud construction with weatherboard cladding.

Roof hipped with shallow eaves, corrugated iron clad.

Features are the verandah to front (east) and to sides (originally timber posts and floor, replaced post 1974 with a bullnose one, returned to the original straight roof form in 1992; removed timber floor is still to be reconstructed, timber triple windows to front, double hung remainder, simulated rustication to front wall, eaves consoles, pilasters to front triple windows.

Remains of brick in-ground water supply tank at rear, pantry section of kitchen demolished in 1991/1992 as part of additions.

Interior extensively altered, including cornices fitted in areas which never had them.

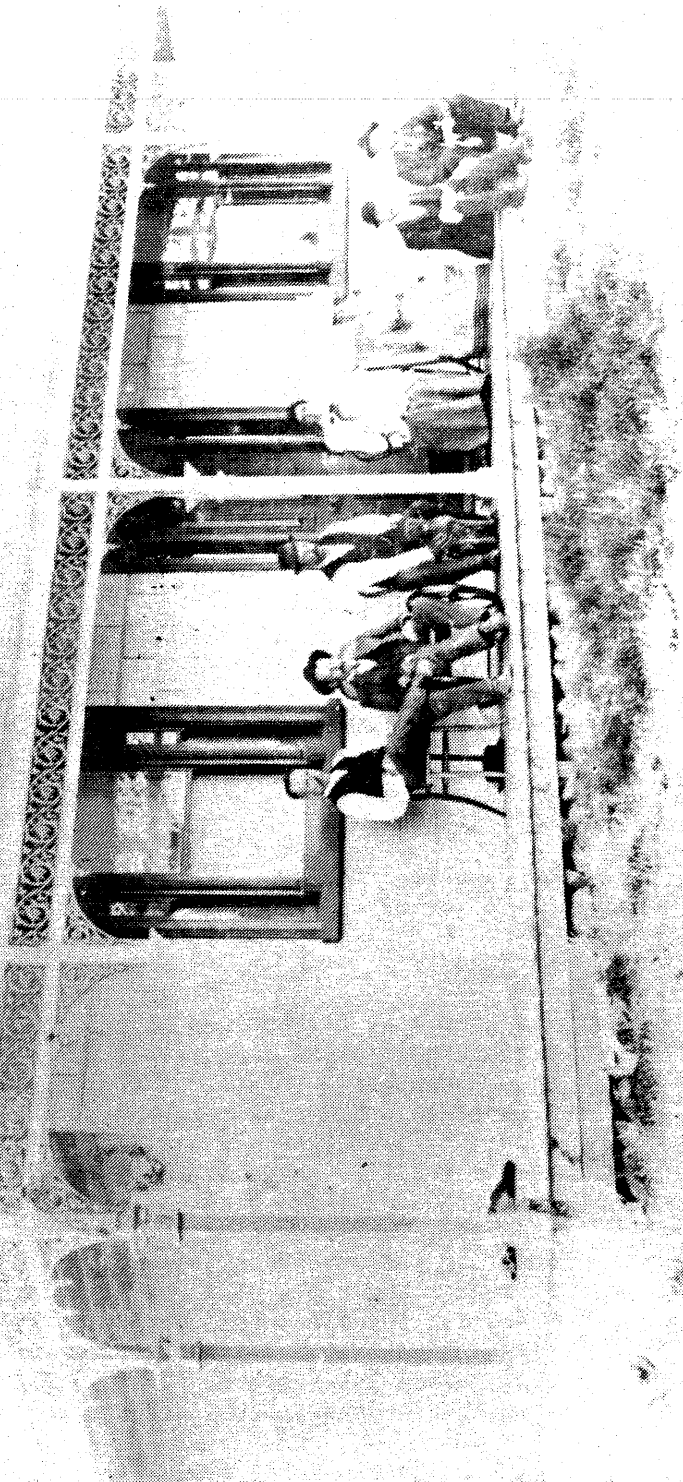
Outbuildings:

Corrugated iron shed. Rendered farm building, apparently altered.

Garden:

The garden at Allwood can be best described as having a semi-formal layout immediately to the front and along the north side. Hawthorns (*Crataegus monogyna*) are planted on either side of an ornamental garden arch placed on the axis of the front door, which creates a division within the front garden. Further to the front of the site the garden is less formal and features scattered and mixed planting, including Palms (*Phoenix species*), Gum trees (*Eucalyptus species*) and a variety of trees of various types and ages. Along the northern side of the garden is a variety of shrub planting, which includes the Evergreen Spindle tree (*Euonymus japonicus*) and Agapanthus (*Agapanthus orientalis*). The rear of the garden is more utilitarian and features informal planting of Peppercorn trees with some remnant shrubs around the recent vehicle access.

The Cabbage palms are especially large and well developed, with multiple branching at the base, and are probably the largest examples in the Shire, along with those at Clifden Farm at St. Andrews North. They can be seen on either side of the front door in the surviving early photographs of Allwood; it is assumed that



WILLIAM GRAY (3RD. FROM LEFT), HIS MOTHER F.E. GRAY AND OTHERS
SITTING ON THE FRONT VERANDAH IN 1899 - NOTE THE APPARENT ABSENCE
OF ANY GARDEN AT THAT STAGE (ELHPC NO. 1018)

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

one was moved to the corner of the house at some stage, having regard to its age. Both specimens are 4 - 5 metres high and in very good condition.

The two Thread Palms along the Northern side of the house were part of a longer row of evenly spaced Palms, as evidenced by the remains of two trunks. Both of these Palms are approximately 15 - 20 metres in height, with fronds about 2 metres long and unusually, do not possess the well developed skirt common to this species. They are in only fair condition and appear to be suffering from the Ivy which is growing to about halfway up each trunk.

Peppercorns were commonly used for shelter and shade trees during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the informally arranged examples at the rear of Allwood illustrate this practice, in contrast to the more formal planting of the front garden. These four trees vary in size and are all quite old, with the largest being 8 - 10 metres tall, broad spreading and possibly dating from around 1900. They are in fair to good condition and have a small amount of dead wood in the canopy.

SOURCES:

1. Alan Marshall, Pioneers and Painters, p.80.
2. Ibid. pp.76-79.
3. Ibid. pp.80-81; Section A Township of Hurstbridge. Sketch of Gray's subdivision LP8103, with names of occupiers of allotments c.1930s (held by the Shire of Eltham).
4. Russell Yeoman, "Brief Shire History", p.7.
5. Marguerite Marshall, Eltham Shire, p.6, 14-15 (includes a photograph of the house in its garden setting).
6. Shire of Eltham. Valuer's Books 1955-1976.
7. Russell Yeoman, Historical notes prepared for Heritage Week 1983.
8. Old photographs in ELHPC. nos. 1018, 1021, 1022?, 1023, 1042, 1043, 1045, 1059, 1062 - reproduced in this evaluation.

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES:

House

Regular maintenance as necessary.

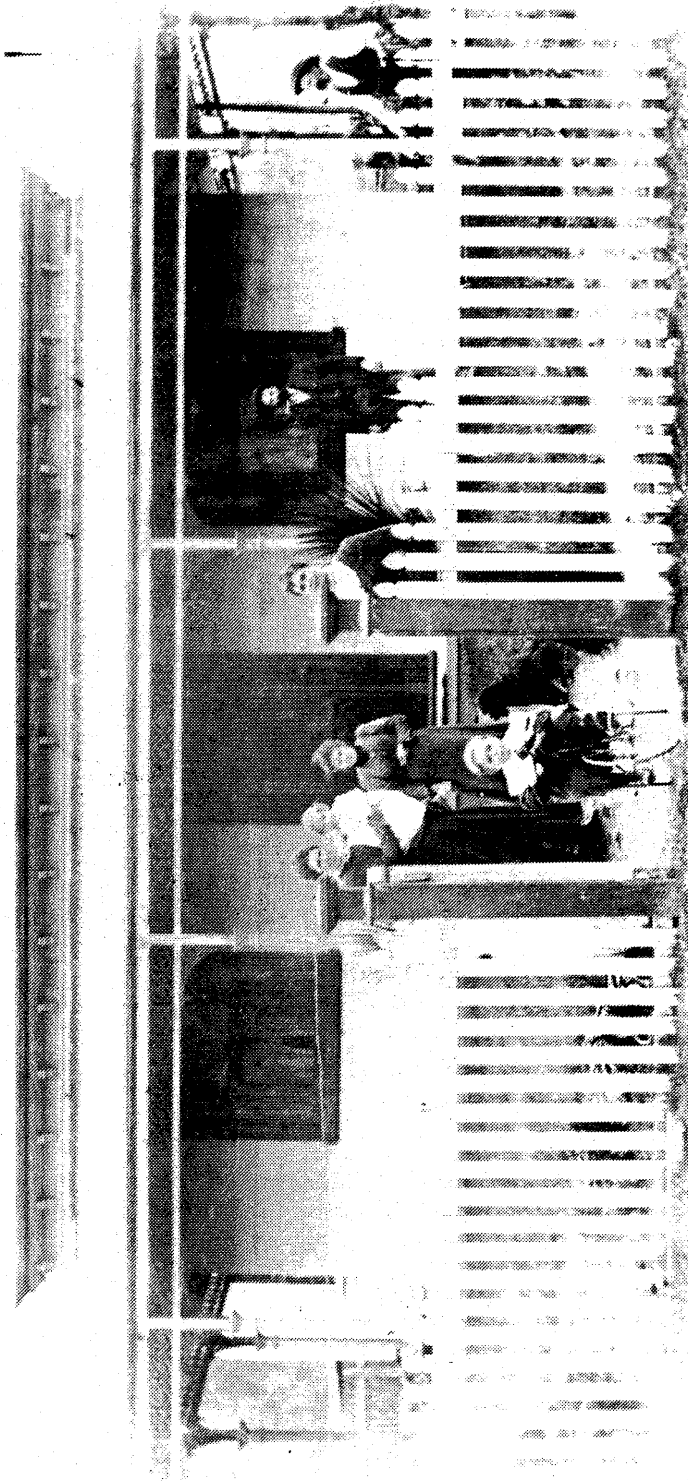
Repainting in original/period colours - the present bland all white scheme does nothing for the exterior appearance of the building. The old photographs show how the house could look.

Reconstruction of the verandah floor and decorative details.

Preserve the surviving planting from William Gray's garden and develop a period garden to serve as a public garden and model for traditional gardens that the community can benefit from.

Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

THE GRAYS AND GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER F.G. HURST
PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1901 - NOTE THE APPARENT START OF THE GARDEN
WITH TIMBER PICKET FENCE, PATHS AND TWO PALMS ON EITHER
SIDE OF THE FRONT DOOR (ELHPC NO. 1021)



Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

Ensure all roof and ground-water is collected and carried well away from the building.

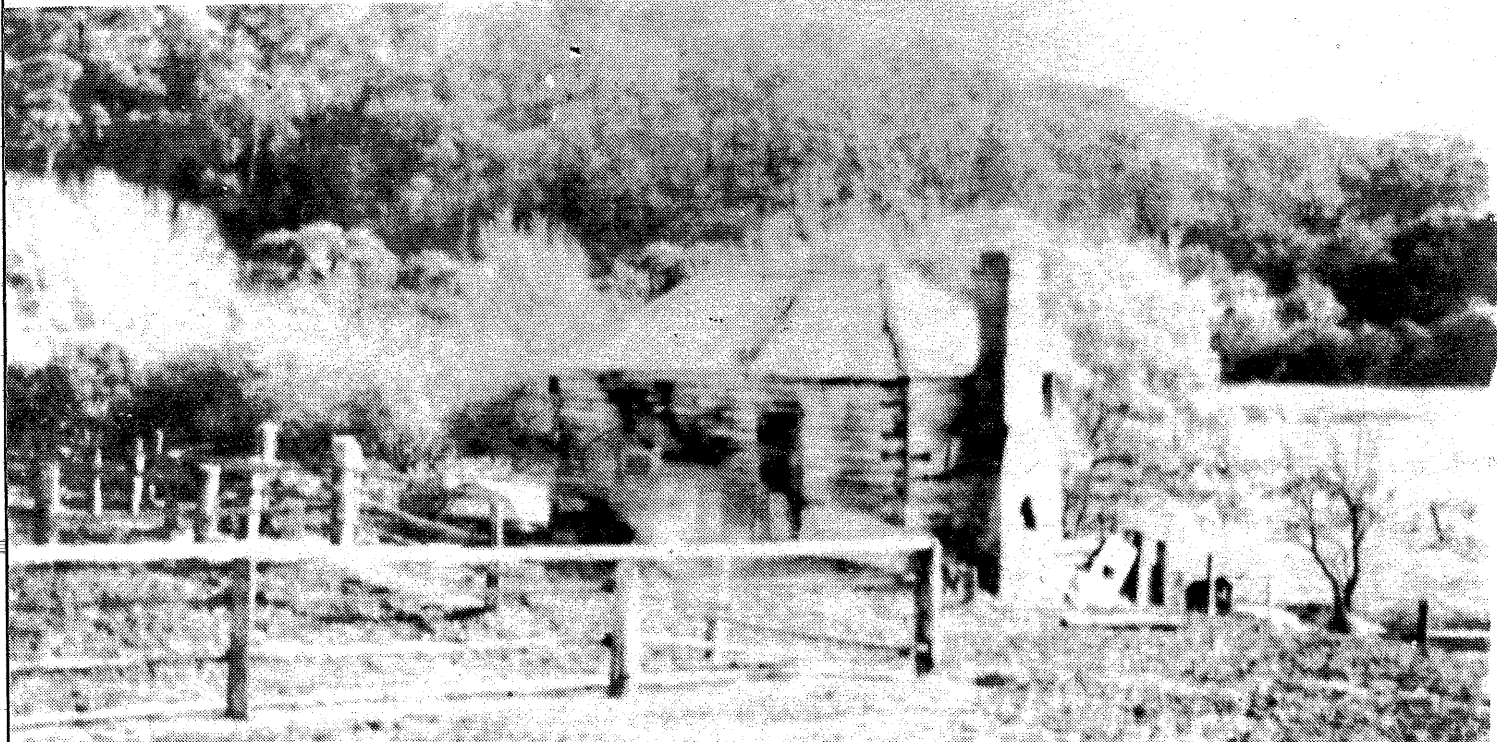
Garden and Individually Identified Trees

The garden layout should be preserved, restored and interpreted for the benefit of the public, with existing plants being preserved.

The feasibility of relocating the Cabbage Palm at the South-East corner of the house to its presumed original location framing the front door, should be investigated. Relocation should only proceed if this was the original location and if it will be successful; otherwise a new Cabbage Palm should be introduced.

Remove the Ivy from the base of the Thread Plams and provide appropriate care after-care to return these trees to good health.

The Peppercorns and other trees on the site should be evaluated by a Tree Surgeon and remedial work undertaken as necessary.

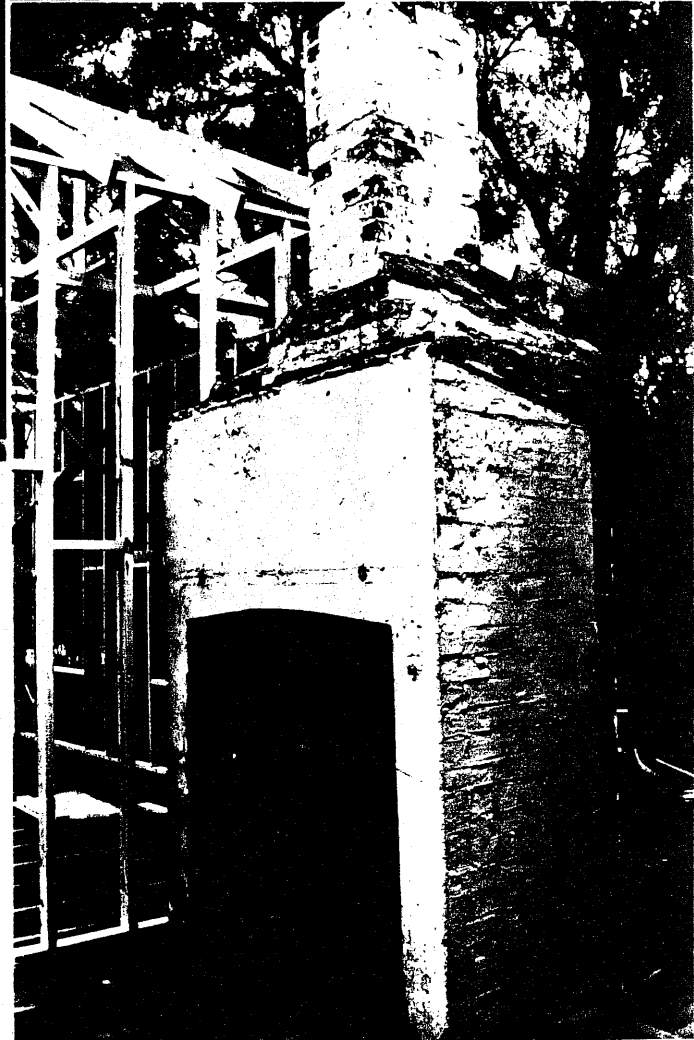


*OLD HOUSE/HUT ON THE ALLWOOD PROPERTY IN 1954
(ELHPC NO. 1045)*

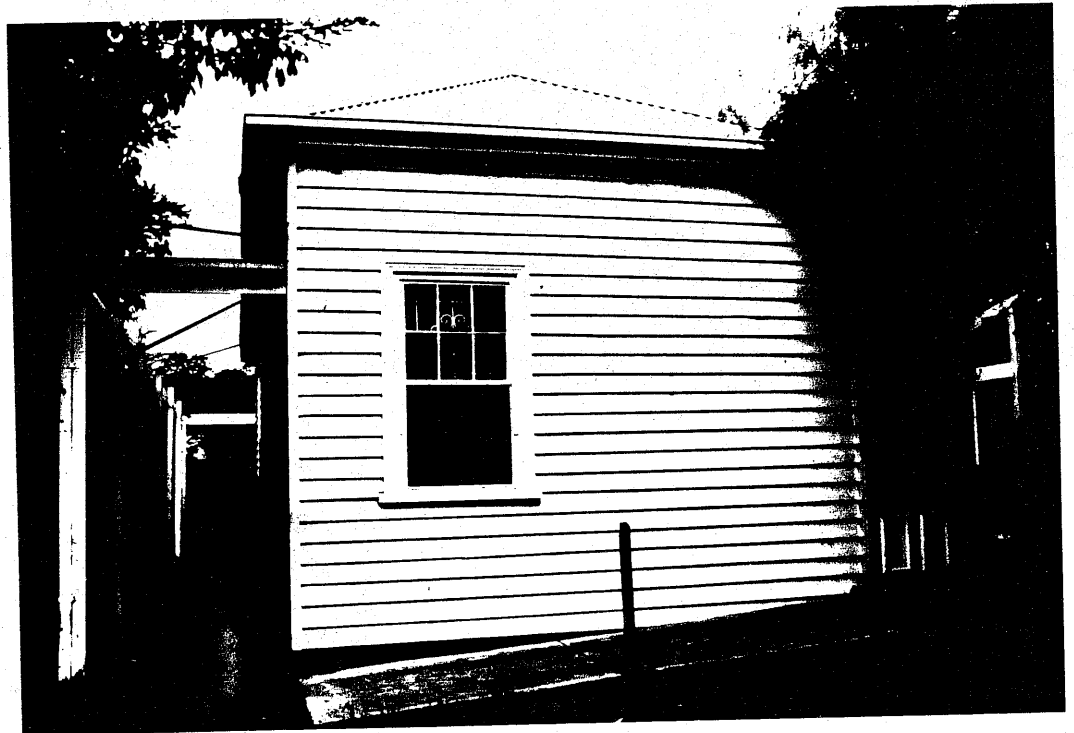
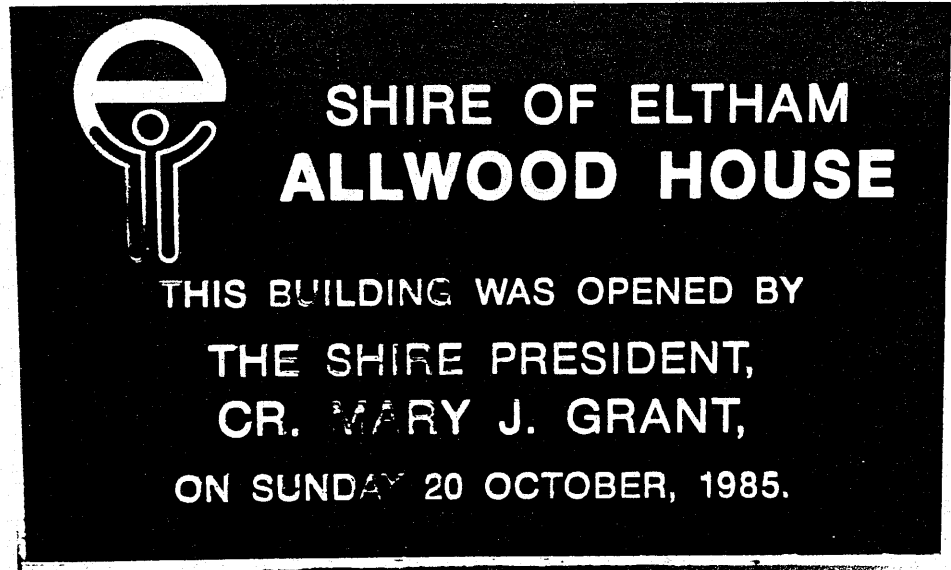
Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

LATER PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE F.G. HURST GRANDPARENTS AND GRAY CHILDREN - THE PALMS ARE NOW TALLER THAN THE VERANDAH AND THE USE OF DIFFERENT PAINT COLOURS ON ALLWOOD IS VERY APPARENT (ELHPC NO. 1023)





Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.





Allwood, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road Cont.

