

TOORAK AREA

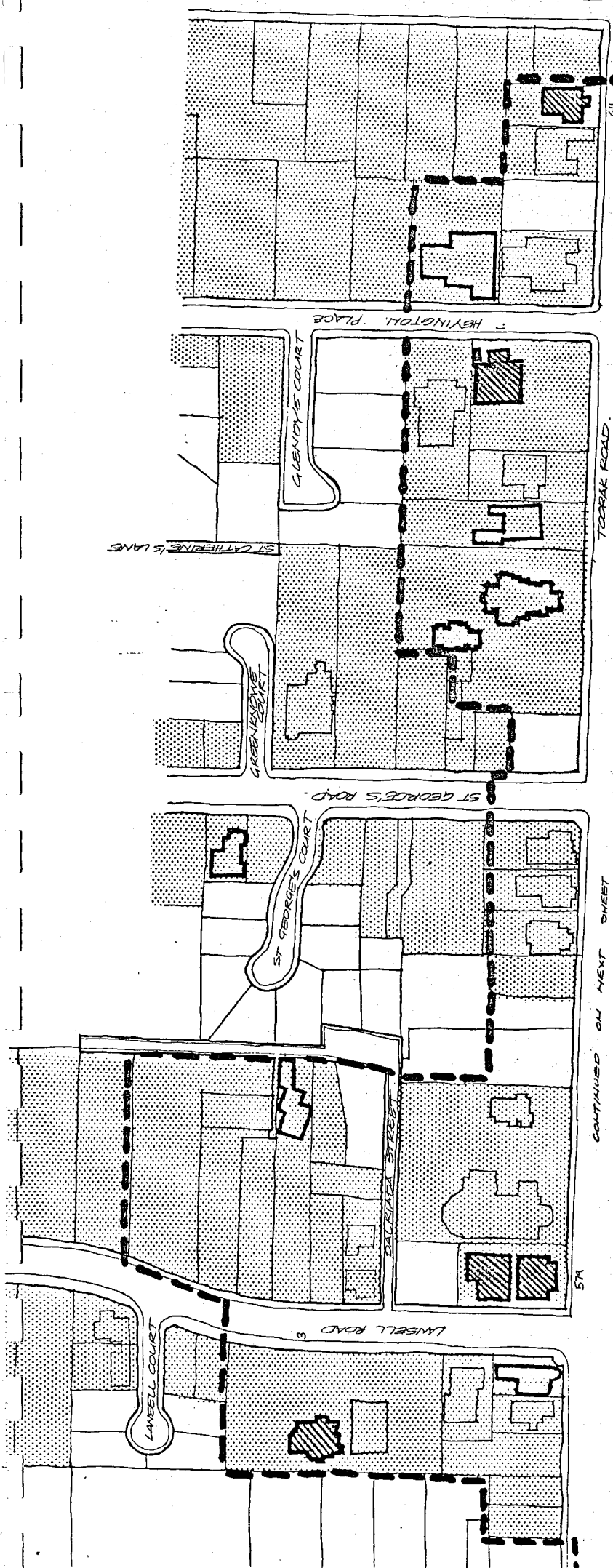
History and significance The line of Toorak Road was first shown on a map in 1837 prepared by a surveyor Robert Hoddle. It formed the southern boundary of six large allotments which ran down to the Yarra River. This land was sold at the first Crown land sale in the present day municipality on 10 June 1840. A number of early mansions were located in this Toorak area, most notable of which was James Jackson's 'Toorak House', constructed circa 1848-51 to design of architect Samuel Jackson. Its original entrance was off Gardiner's Creek Road (now Toorak Road) but its address is now 21 St Georges Road. It was never occupied by its intended owner but leased and extravagantly extended as the residence of the Governor of Victoria from 1854-74. The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist Toorak, was located at the intersection of Toorak and Clendon roads and subsequently enlarged in 1865. The distinctive tower and broached spire were added in 1873 to complete the original design of William Wardell.

'Toorak House' which stood on a site running between Orrong Road, St Catherine's Lane, Toorak Road and the River, helped attract other wealthy residents to the area. During the 1840s the fashionable area of Melbourne was in the east end of the township and to the north east of the township in Fitzroy, an area then known for its rural seclusion. The large influx of population following the discovery of gold created a great demand for suburban housing by poorer residents, and the eastern part of the city and the area of Fitzroy became infiltrated by piecemeal housing. The wealthy residents thus began migrating to the rural areas of Toorak and South Yarra and St Kilda. Probably as a result of the vice regal patronage of Toorak the entire length of the old Gardiner's Creek Road (Toorak Road) was graded and surfaced to become one of the finest roads in the district. By the 1860s and 70s numerous other large mansions had been erected in this area and the prominent Toorak Presbyterian Church was erected in 1875-6 predominantly catering for the Scottish congregation in the area. Some of the mansions which still remain in this Toorak area, today, include Greenwich House (75-79 Irving Road), 'Umina' (3 Lansell Road) and 'Coonac' (65 Clendon Road).

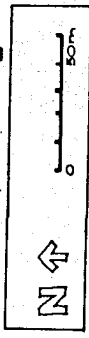
This Toorak area was also the scene of intensive development in the period of 1920 to 1930. An important group of residences were erected near the corner of Heyington Road and Toorak Road, designed by architect Harold Desbrowe Annear. Annear also designed the garden for Sydney Myer's 'Craniana', 62 Clendon Road in 1930. Annear employed the Italianate style with the inclusion of fountains, ferns and statues. Nearby in Clendon Road, Walter Burley Griffin's office had designed 'Clendon Lodge' in 1923 for Mary Williams. Three years later Griffin designed the Lanai flats also for Mary Williams. Another contribution to the architecture of the 1920s in this area was 'Mullion' (18 Sconeaven Court) designed by Eric Nicholls in 1927-28 for W. H. Smith. The building was erected when Sir Francis Ormond's property at the corner of Clendon and Orrong roads was subdivided

and many of the mature trees from his garden were retained on the site of 'Mullion'. South of 'Mullion' another subdivision, Stradbroke Avenue was developed at a slightly later period. Buildings were all constructed of rough cast and masonry and today the feeling of the road conforms very much to its original appearance although recent exterior redecoration, to many residences has slightly lessened the overall effect.

This Toorak area is notable for its avenues of mature trees principally in Lansell Road and Clendon Road. Architecturally the highlights of the area are the group of Desbrowe Annear buildings including the garden at 'Oraniana', the two buildings from Griffin's office, Wardell's St Johns Church and 'Mullion', Eric Nicholl's superb design at 6 Stonehaven Court. The large gardens especially in Lansell and Clendon Roads provide an appropriate setting for the large residences and streets such as Stradbroke Avenue, with its concentration of rough cast houses give the area an architectural uniformity.



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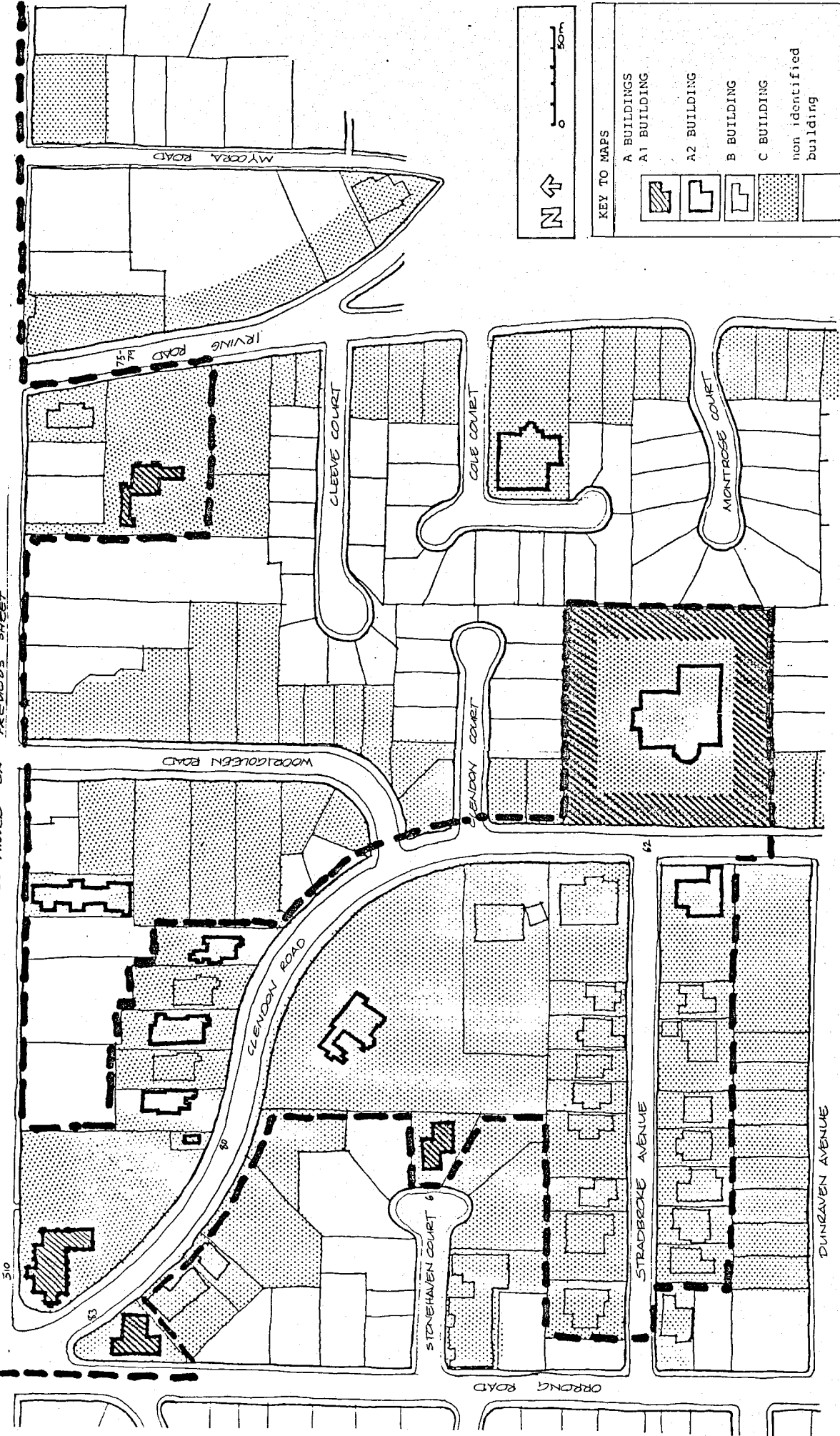


KEY TO MAPS

	A BUILDINGS
	A1 BUILDING
	A2 BUILDING
	B BUILDING
	C BUILDING
	non identified building
	A1 AREA
	A2 AREA
	combined boundary

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