

1a LINLITHGOW ROAD, The Cottage, TOORAK

Architects: Smith and Johnston, possibly Walter Butler, Marcus and Alison Norris

History

1a Linlithgow Road was built in 1886 as the stables for 'Eilyer' the mansion home of prominent pastoralist Albert Austin, on Crown Portion 26. They were converted in 1920 to provide a laundry and staff accommodation for the Shackell residence (1 Linlithgow Road) built in 1919, converted again into a house on a separate allotment in 1959, and sold by the Shackell family in 1986.

1849

Crown Portion 26, bounded by present day Kooyong Road, Toorak Road, the line of Denham Place and Malvern Road, was purchased by Melbourne merchant, author and politician, James Jackson in 1849.¹ At the same time Jackson purchased 108 acres of land west of Kooyong Road, where he built his mansion 'Toorak House', which gave the district its name.

Following Jackson's early death, 'Toorak House' was leased as the official residence of the Governor of Victoria. However east of Kooyong Road, the 71 acres of 'Jackson's Paddock' remained undivided for more than twenty years. The land was fenced, a small brick house was erected and a succession of dairymen leased the land from Jackson's widow.² With the subdivision of 'Jackson's Paddock' in 1872, Albany Road was created.

1886

Albert Austin, probably the most prominent Western District and Riverina Merino sheep grazer and pastoralist, selected six acres of pastoral land in Albany Road. In the same year he built a 'stone' city mansion of 28 rooms, at a cost of £8,000, to the design of architects Smith and Johnson.³ Austin named his home 'Eilyer' after his country property and by 1894 he owned a total of twenty-nine acres of elevated land fronting Albany Road.⁴

Albert Austin came to Australia in 1851 to learn about Australian farming methods from Thomas Austin, his uncle at Barwon Park in the Western District. Assisted by his uncles, Albert purchased a substantial crown leasehold at Mortlake, near Lake Bolac, in Western Victoria. The property, 'Eilyer', was fully stocked with Merino sheep, and in 1871 Albert built a fine bluestone house where he and his wife Catherine had nine

¹ Rob Bower, 'Malvern, a history of the subdivision, 1840-1989', volume 2, plan 1, (unpublished manuscript). Malvern Archives.

² Gardiner Road Board, rate book, Lot 25, 1864, no. 194.

³ Smith & Johnson. Tender notice, *Argus*, 27 March 1886, Miles Lewis Australian Architectural Index.

⁴ Shire of Malvern, valuation book, Western Riding, 1887, no. 24.

children. Albert increased his landholdings in Victoria and NSW, and his outstanding success with the breeding of Merino sheep has been well documented.⁵

1902

The MMBW plan of 1902 shows 'Eilyer' in Albany Road, with its carriage drive leading past the mansion to the stables and coach house, which were located on the rear boundary adjacent to the stables of 'Yar Orrong'. Sometime after this, the stable building was extended towards Albany Road, possibly to accommodate motor vehicles for the Austin family.⁶ Albert and Catherine Austin spent their last few years at 'Eilyer' where Albert died in 1916.⁷

1914

North of Whernside Avenue, Linlithgow Road (the north end) had been created in 1914 when the Hillside Estate was subdivided.⁸ Five years later legal manager, accountant and auditor, Edward Herbert Shackell, purchased 'Eilyer' from the estate of Catherine Austin.⁹ The mansion was demolished, the surrounding grounds were sub-divided and in 1919 a building plan was submitted to Malvern Council by architects Walter and Richard Butler for a two-storey residence for Shackell in Albany Road.¹⁰ The extension to 'Eilyer's' stables, which were retained to provide laundry, stables and accommodation for Shackell's new house, is shown on Butler's plan.

1920

In 1920, a building plan was submitted for 'Additions and alterations to stable buildings for E H Shackell Esq. Albany Road Toorak.'¹¹ An architect's name was not shown. The same year, in Albany Road on land adjacent to 'Eilyer's' stables, 'Yar Orrong's' stables were converted to a house for Mrs D H Alsop to the design of architect Rodney Alsop of the firm Klingender & Alsop.¹²

When Linlithgow Road was extended to meet Albany Road in 1922, Edward Shackell's

⁵ See Joan Austin Palmer, 'Albert Austin', unpublished manuscript, Malvern Archives.

⁶ MMBW plan 40 ft to the inch, 1902

⁷ The Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company considered the account they had with Albert and his sons to be the largest they had ever handled. Albert was chairman of the Deniliquin Freezing Co. and a foundation member of the Pastoralists Association of Victoria and the Southern Riverina, Joan Austin Palmer; de Serville, *Pounds & pedigrees*, p. 37.

⁸ Lodged Plan 6459, 31 August 1914.

⁹ Edward Shackell in Smith (ed.) *Cyclopedia*, special part, Melbourne, 1903, p. 85.

¹⁰ Malvern building plan, no. 1959. 1919: Residence Albany Road, Toorak for E H Shackell Esq. Walter and Richard Butler Architects, October 1919. State Library of Victoria collection WD HOU.159-1,2. Second set of plans (blueprints) which shows a more elaborate entry entablature. The floor plan shows the 'Laundry' out building

¹¹ Malvern building plan, no. 2303. 1920: Additions and Alterations to Stable Buildings for E H Shackell Esq, Albany Road Toorak

¹² City of Malvern rate book, 1923-4, north ward, no. 594; MMBW drainage plan, 17 September, 1921, no. 131498; City of Malvern rate book, 1921-2, north ward, no. 557; See also MMBW plan, 1902.

house was numbered 1 Linlithgow Road.¹³ The stable building was later numbered 1a Linlithgow Road.

1959

In 1959 plans were submitted to Malvern Council for 'Conversion [of the stable building] to a separate residence for J B Shackell - Marcus and Alison Norris architects 377 Little Collins Street.'¹⁴ The Shackell family retained possession of the property until 1986.

1987

A building permit was issued for additions to the building in 1987.

Largely based on the history prepared by Di Foster, Malvern Archives

REFERENCES:

Austin family history file, Malvern Archives.
Australian Home Beautiful, 1 May 1937.
 Bower, Rob, 'Malvern, a history of the subdivision, 1840-1989', volume 2, plan 1, (unpublished manuscript). Malvern Archives.
 de Serville, Paul, *Pounds & pedigrees: The Upper Class in Victoria 1850-1880*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne 1991.
 Foster, Di, 'Melbourne's most fashionable suburb: a history of Toorak east of Kooyong Road 1840-1998', unpublished MA thesis, Monash University, 1999
 Gardiner Road Board, rate books.
 Malvern building plan 1,0040,01200
 Malvern building plan 1,0040,01400
 Malvern building plan no. 2303
 Miles Lewis Australian Architectural Index.
 MMBW plan 1902
 Shire of Malvern, valuation books.
 Smith, James, (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria: An Historical and Commercial Review*, The Cyclopaedia Company, Melbourne, 1903.

¹³ Linlithgow Road, LP8922. Lodged 26.7.1922, Bower, plan 1, p.27.

¹⁴ Malvern building plan 1,0040,01400. 1959: Conversion to a separate residence for JB Shackell - Marcus and Alison Norris architects 377 Little Collins Street

Description

The building is an elongated building constructed along the north western fence line, mainly two storied with a gabled slate roof. The roof is punctuated with chimneys with capping, and the gable ends are parapets. The building has a modest cottage scale resulting from the upper level being the former stable loft. There is a single storey wing at the south western (Albany Road) end. The walls and chimneys are rough cast, and the simple upper level windows are multi-paned neo-Georgian.

Analysis

This former stables building remains as the only surviving structure of the grand mansion 'Eilyer' built by noted pastoralist Albert Austin. It is of special interest because it is adjacent to the former stables of Yar Orrong (30 Albany Road), now also converted to a separate residence. It is unlikely that there are any other adjacent stables structures surviving from any of the other grand Toorak properties.

It also retains an historic association with the 1919 Shackell residence for which it served as a laundry, garage and staff quarters until 1959, as well as Shackell family ownership until 1986. Edward Shackell married into the Baillieu family.

It is not certain whether any conversion of the former 'Eilyer' stables to create a laundry had occurred when the 1919 Walter Butler plans for the new Shackell residence at 1 Linlithgow Road were prepared, the outline plan refers to it as 'Laundry'. The 1920 plans for alterations and additions to 1a Linlithgow Road provided increased living quarters for the staff, as well as a new single garage (probably just a renamed carriage store), while retaining the loose boxes, stalls and part of the loft of the original stables. The kitchen and verandah was a totally new single storey structure at the Albany Road end. The laundry appears to be a conversion of a second carriage store, indicated by a new external wall in place of a large opening. There was a separate stair at each end of the upper level. The rough cast finish, slate roof, chimney design and simple fenestration created an Arts and Crafts character. This detailing would have helped this major out building of Eilyer to blend in with the new Butler design for the Shackell mansion. There are many elements that match Eilyer, including chimneys and internal door design¹⁴. There is, however, no indication of the architect for this work. It is very likely that Walter Butler was involved in some manner.

The subsequent major rebuilding in the 1959 created a separate residence. The existing conditions drawing show that there were no external additions since 1920, but that the stables had been converted to a second garage and fuel room. The latter still retained some of the fabric of the stalls, such as the brick paving and posts that divided the stalls. The garages had had the brick work extended and a large verandah since 1920, in order to

¹⁴ Jane Brent, current owner, pers. comm. to Nigel Lewis, 22 November 1999

accommodate longer vehicles. The external stable doorway, by contrast, had remained unaltered.

The 1959 work generally retained the character of the 1920 alterations. This conversion utilised the scale of a stables building to provide a cottage scale and form. The only external addition was a new bedroom above the old laundry. The laundry was converted to create another additional bedroom, as was part of the old fuel room, with a new bedroom constructed above. New stairs were constructed at the eastern end to replace the original stairs which had provided access to the hay loft. . The garage verandah was removed.

The 1920 kitchen extension remained, externally unchanged, but was converted into a dining room. It appears that the semi-circular wing that forms an extension to this structure dates from the 1987 works. More recently, further alterations have been made to ground level windows.

There are several mature English oaks that would appear to date from the construction of Eilyer.

Integrity

Because of the evolutionary character of this property, consideration of integrity must be made after the analysis. There has only been two major additions since the 1920 alterations which provided the current significant external architectural character. One is the 1959 second storey addition at the north eastern extension, which was previously the single storey laundry. The other is the 1987 single storey semi-circular addition to the single storey Albany Road wing. Both additions are sympathetic to the original design. The building retains many of the 1920 elements, other than the painted roughcast, some ground floor windows, the boundary fence along Albany Road and Linlithgow Road, as well as the carport at the south eastern corner on Linlithgow Road.

Significance

'The Cottage' 1a Linlithgow Road was built in 1886 as the stables for 'Eilyer' the mansion home of prominent pastoralist Albert Austin. They were converted in 1920 to provide a laundry and staff accommodation for the Shackell residence (1 Linlithgow Road) which was built in 1919, converted again into a house on a separate allotment in 1959, and sold by the Shackell family in 1986.

The property is of regional significance for:

- ° the historical use as stables for the original mansion 'Eilyer',
- ° the historical and physical associations with the Shackell residence and the converted stables of Yar Orrong, both adjacent, the stables probably representing the last such structures surviving in juxtaposition in Toorak

- the picturesque Arts and Crafts influenced architectural character - a consequence of the design and massing of the original stable design as well as its conversion
- the mature oak trees, also apparently dating from the construction of Eilyer.

Physical elements that contribute to this significance are:

- slate gabled roof
- rough cast walls
- simple fenestration to upper floors
- mature oak trees

Criteria

The building easily meets the criteria for local significance as required by state government guidelines. This is defined by the *Local Government Heritage Guidelines*, Department of Planning and Housing, 1991, (p6)

Places of local significance are of particular importance to a local community, or part of a community, which is usually defined by a local government area (this was pre amalgamation). The majority of places which are determined to be of cultural value will be of local significance. Relatively fewer places will be determined to be of state or national significance.

The normal means of management for places of local significance is inclusion ... in the local planning scheme.

More recently, the Practice Notes to the Victorian Planning Provisions included *Applying the Heritage Overlay*, Department of Infrastructure, February 1999, confirm the 1991 criteria and also recommend the use of the AHC criteria.

Under the Australian Heritage Commission's eight broad criteria, a place may possess significance or other special value for future generations as well as the present community.

This property has been considered to meet the following AHC criteria:

Criterion A: *its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history*

Important association with the development history of Toorak from the beginning of development

Criterion B: *its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history*

Being converted stables, adjacent to another stables structures surviving from another grand Toorak property, both representing rare surviving fabric from an almost vanished development pattern.

Criterion D: *its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:*

- i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or*
- ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments*

Interesting example of Arts and Crafts architecture from the 1920 conversion, and adjacent to a sequence of important examples of Arts and Crafts influenced houses

Criterion E: *its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group*

Has particularly strong aesthetic qualities

Criterion H: *its special associations with the life or works of a person, a group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history*

For its long association with the Shackell family

ATTACHMENTS

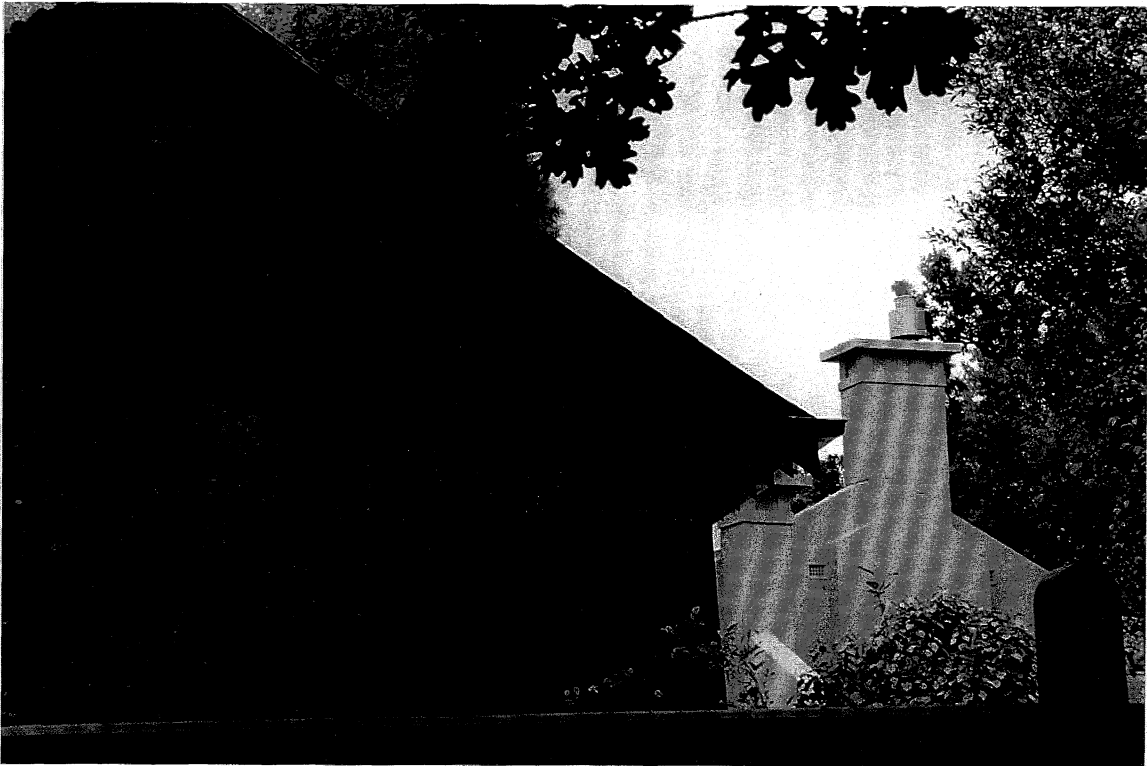
1 CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS



View from Albany Road showing Butler chimney design, and gable parapet, 1920 single storey extension in foreground



View of same section, with former converted Yar Orrong stables in background



View from Albany Road, showing extension to Alsop design of 30 Albany Road, and Butler design details



General view from SW



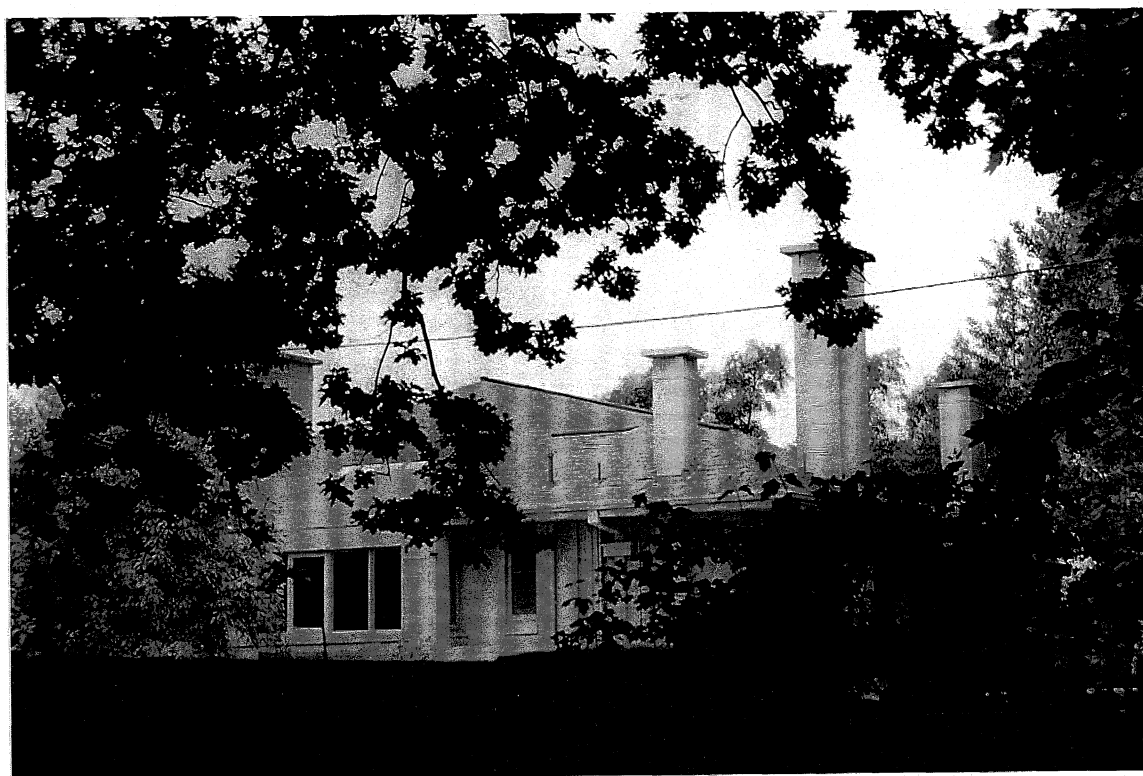
View from side of same SW section, with recent semi-circular extension in foreground



View along side elevation, showing single storey extension for enlarged motor garage, and second storey extension over former laundry



View toward Shackell residence from 1a showing relationship as former outbuilding

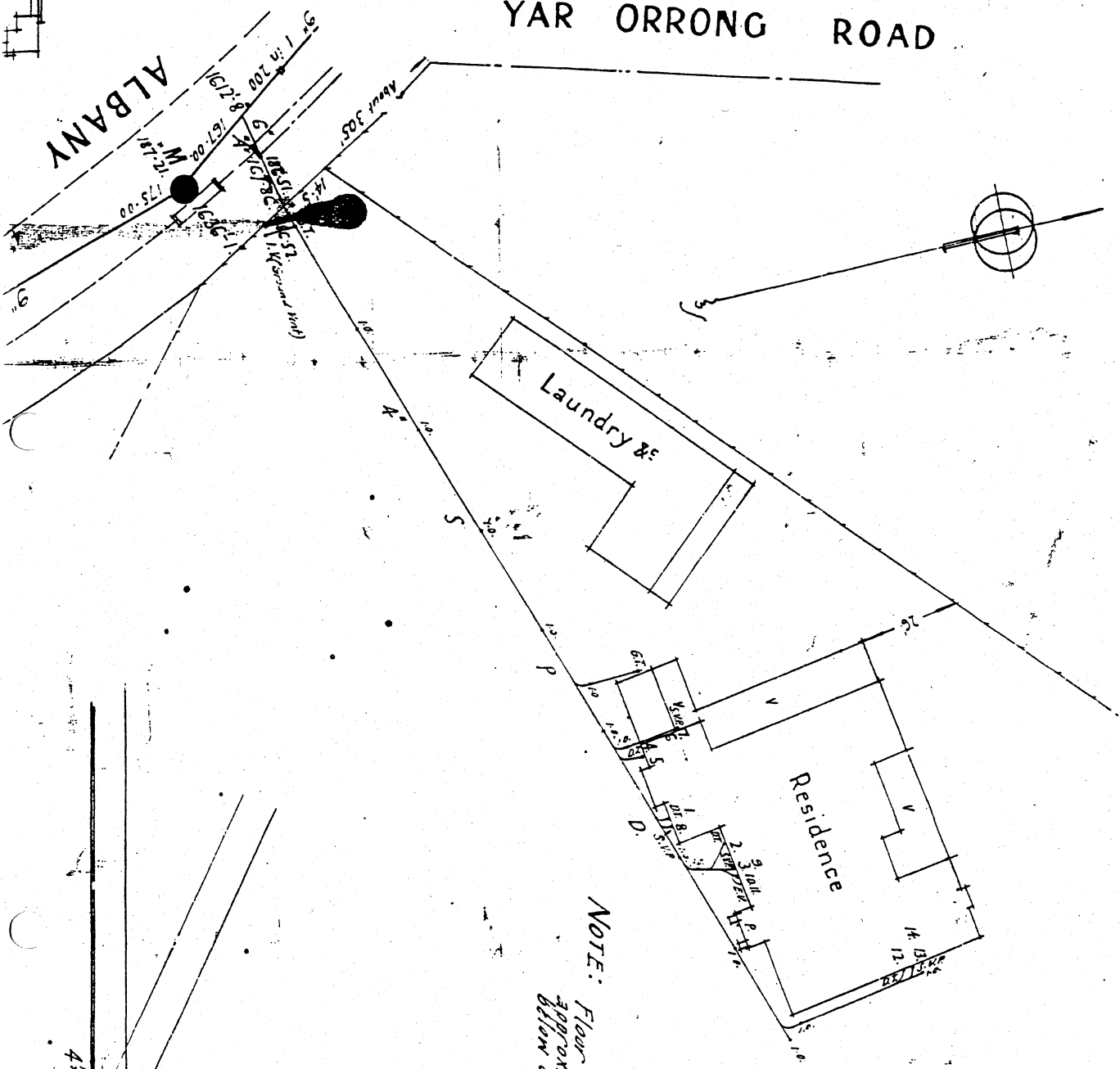


View of Shackell residence from 1a showing matching Butler designed chimney details

YAR ORRONG ROAD

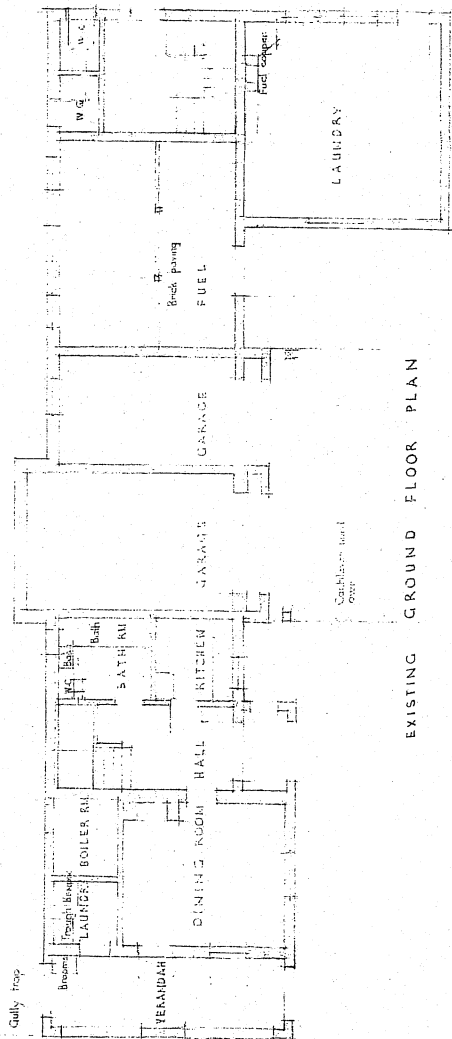
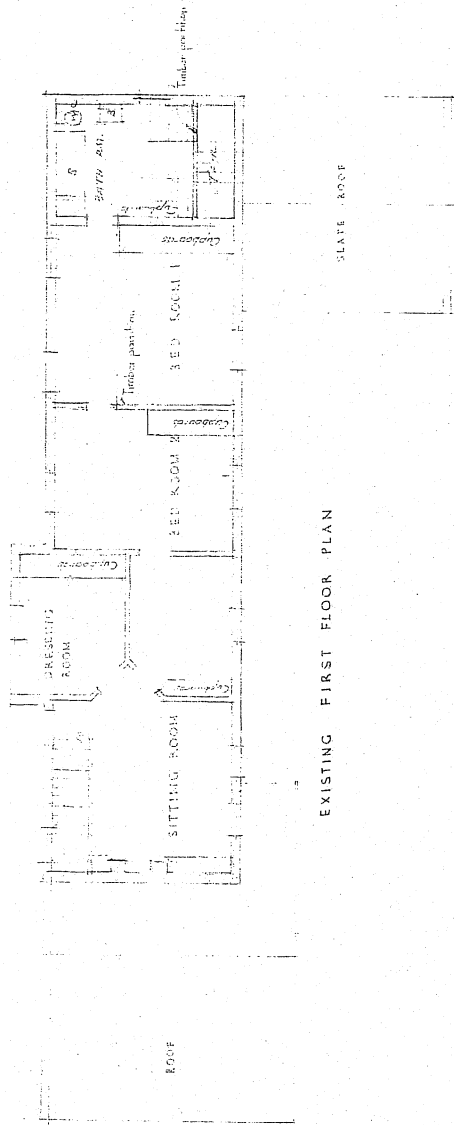
Opening
 pipe
 1/2" dia.
 5ft.
 1/2" dia.
 5ft.

Top and
 sufficient
 6' 0"



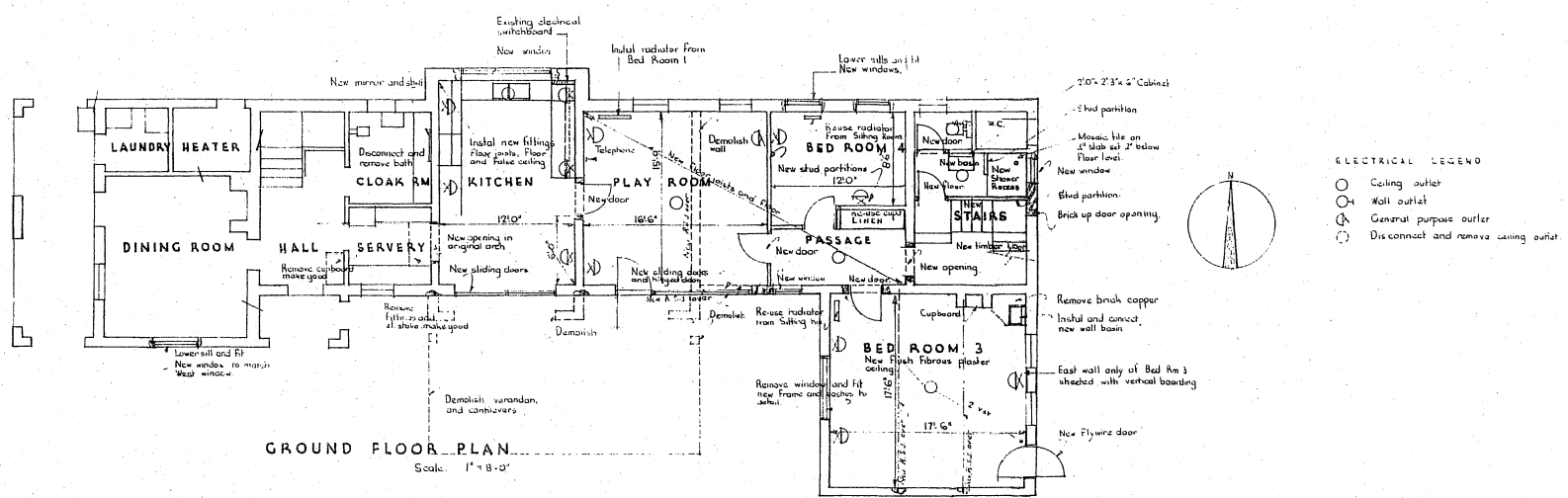
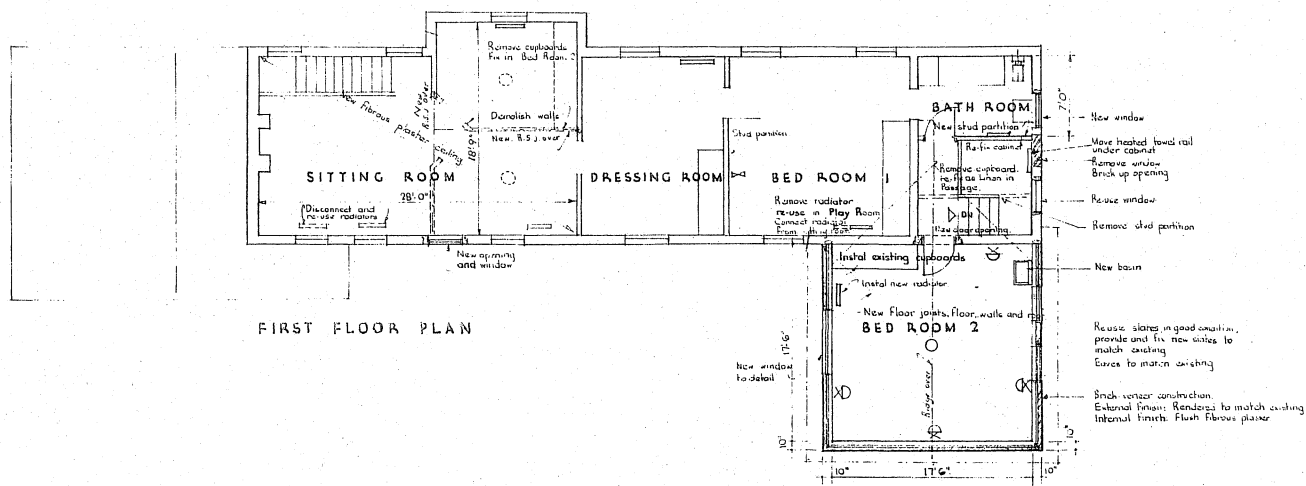
NOTE: Floor level of residence
 approximately 11'-10"
 below crown of road at A

1,0070,01400



RESIDENCE J. B. SHACKELL ESQ. 17 LINLINGOW ROAD, TOORAK
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" DATE: 3rd March 1959
SHEET No 1
Marsden and Allison Roberts A.R.A.N.Z.

1,0040,01400



- ELECTRICAL LEGEND**
- Ceiling outlet
 - ⊕ Wall outlet
 - ⊙ General purpose outlet
 - ⊖ Disconnect and remove ceiling outlet

All new door and window openings to have M.S. angles and R.S.J.s over.
 Note: All measurements to be taken from job.

ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
 RESIDENCE J. B. SHACKELL ESQ.
 19 LINLITHGOW ROAD, TOORAK
 SCALE: 1" = 8'-0"
 DATE: 3rd March 1959 SHEET No 2
 Marcus and Alison Norris, A.R.A.I.A., Architects.

1958 - proposed alterations