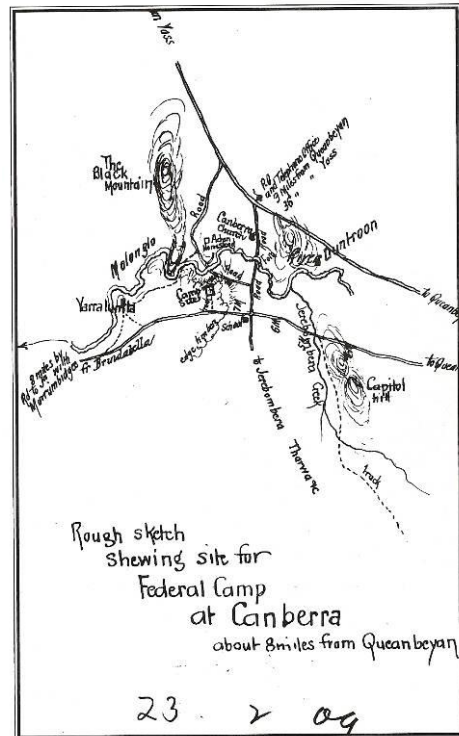


**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CAMPS & COTTAGES USED BY WORKMEN IN FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
1909-1930**



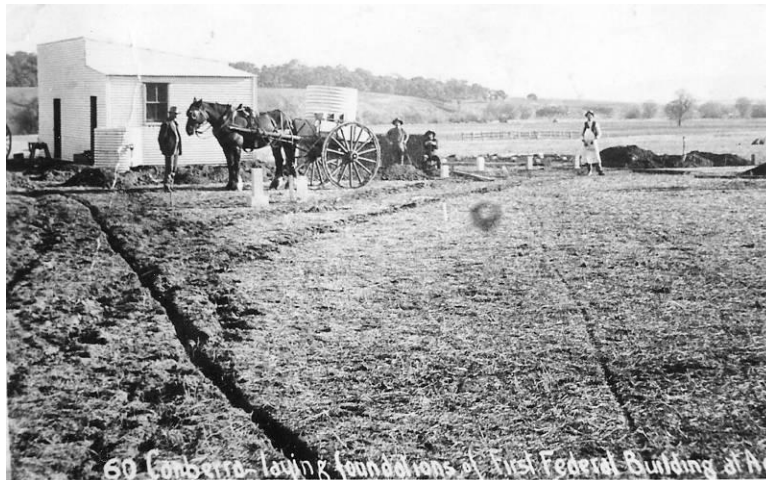
EARLY CAMPS (1909 to early 1920s)

The building of the city of Canberra commenced in 1913 and was interrupted by the First World War. By 1916 most construction work had ceased and the brickworks closed. Work did not resume until 1920/1921. Camps closed and the numbers in others decreased during the period of the war. Where camps have continued through into the 1920s and early 1930s such as those at Acton, the Brickyards, Capitol Hill & Power House sites these camps are included in this section. Married and single quarters were kept separate and in the period post World War One camps were allocated to different 'classes' of workers. The lowest on the scale was Labourers followed by Pug (horse & dray), Tradesmen, Engineers and Surveyors and other such officials. Most single camps had a Mess and Mess Caterer.

There were also many small camps set up near worksites. These are not recorded in this document.

The sites of some camps were found in documents and maps researched Australian Archives, National Library and from memories of those who lived in early Canberra. Camps were not considered to be of any importance and only a few official photographs were taken. Some are in the Mildenhall collection in Australian Archives and include in particular the construction of the Westlake cottages and nearby camps. The journal of the Social Service Association (1925-1927) *The Canberra Community News* and Canberra's first newspaper *The Federal Capital Pioneer* are invaluable sources of information of the 1920s in Canberra.

[Details of camps and maps etc are in *The Builders of Canberra 1909-1929* Gugler]

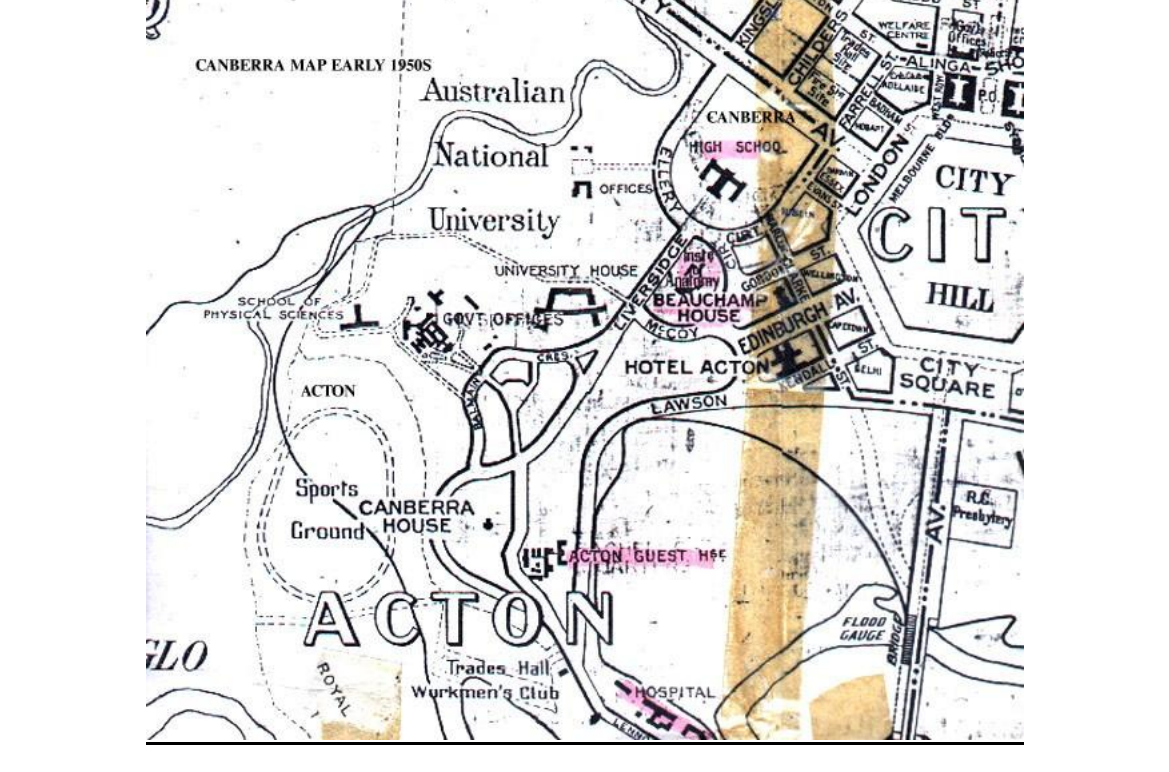


Above photograph loaned by Alison Neiberding whose father was a plumber who worked on the above building site. This is probably work on Canberra House which was the first permanent building constructed at Acton in 1912. Below photograph from Alison Neiberding collection - Acton 1913.



Above National Library [nla.pic.an 11030057-40-v] photograph showing the arrival of one of the ex-Molonglo buildings for a new home for the Ryan family at Acton. (1919)

A black and white photograph showing the construction of a large brick structure, likely a bunker or fortification, on a hillside. Scaffolding is visible around the central part of the structure, and several workers are standing on it. The foreground shows the rough, uneven ground of the construction site. The text "BRICK" is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.



Map of Acton area circa 1927

Acton was the first well documented area settled by Europeans on the Limestone Plains. JJ Moore, the first European owner, named this property on Ngunawal land Canberry. This Ngunawal word which has a

variety of spellings means *woman's breasts* and is the name given to the plain near Black Mountain and Mount Ainslie. Quite a number of 19th century births, deaths & marriages on the Limestone Plains have *Canberry* and *Canberra* recorded on their certificates. The second owner of the property renamed it Acton. The name of the city comes from the original name of the area and the suburb of Acton from the property's second name. A small bronze plaque marks the original site of Acton House.

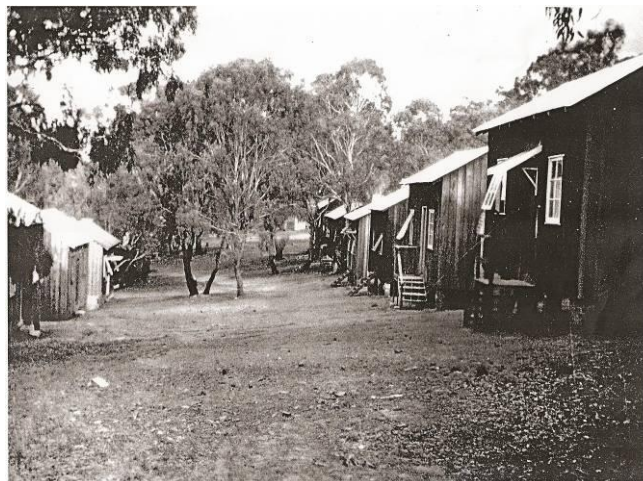
Acton property and Klensendorlffe's on the south side of the Molonglo River formed part of the first 36 square miles of the city. Following the resumption by the Commonwealth of Acton property in 1911 and nearby Springbank in 1913 both properties and Klensendorlffe's land on the other side of the Molonglo River came under the heading of *Acton*. In the early 1920s the area of Klensendorlffe's land that extended from Stirling Ridge on the western side to Capital Hill (included) on the eastern side and back from the Molonglo to Red Hill was named Westlake, in the suburb of Acton. In the mid 1960s at which time Westlake ceased to exist this part of Klensendorlffe's property became part of the suburb of Yarralumla. Today this small parcel of land is Stirling Park and the old quarry marked on 1913 maps is Attunga Point. The Southern Cross Yacht Club is on the site of Briar Farm and the Water Police headquarters are on the site of Corkhill's *Riverview*. The site of Klensendorlffe's old stone villa is under the waters of Lake Burley Griffin in an area behind the Hotel Canberra (Hyatt) and the entrance to the property is marked by an old pine tree in the park behind the hotel.

The camps and the administrative offices etc in Acton were all on the original property of Canberry/Acton.

From around 1910 Acton until the mid to late 1950s Acton was the administrative centre of Canberra. Here was Canberra's first bank - the Commonwealth - offices, hospital etc. Officials who held positions such as Chief Architect, Head of Parks & Gardens and so on moved into the few timber cottages erected on the hill near to the two storey stone house built in 1912 for the Administrator (Residency - Canberra House). Single men such as those working as surveyors and clerks moved into the timber barracks of the Bachelors Quarters. During the 1920s when the Bachelors Quarters was full a number of tents were erected near to the main facilities in the Quarters.

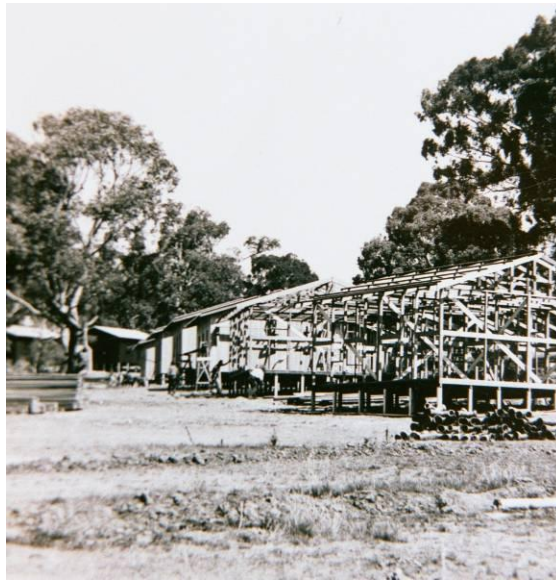
Below on the flat was Acton House, also used by men of importance, and the tents and humpies of the working class men. The first nursery was established at Acton in 1913. The following year a larger nursery was set up in Sheedy's paddock at Yarralumla (now Western Park and the grounds of the Royal Canberra Golf Club). The first man in charge was Thomas Weston and AE Bruce followed him in 1927. The latter man was responsible for the design of the rose garden near the Provisional Parliament House.

In 1923 HM Rolland visited a settlement at Westlake built by John Howie for his workmen and following this visit designed small timber cottages for workmen. (Below is a Canberra & District Historical Society photograph showing Howie's Cottages)



In 1923 or early 1924 twenty of the Rolland cottages in *The Gap* Westlake were made ready for married tradesmen in *The Gap* Westlake. They were followed by another 32 and on in 1924 on the flat land now under the waters of Lake Burley Griffin fifteen small timber Rolland cottages were built for workmen at

Acton. As soon as these cottages were ready a number of families living in the nearby condemned humpies (married quarters camp) moved into the cottages.



Dunshea's *humphy* at Acton 1919- many of these cottages were well built and comfortable.

Acton was the only *suburb* to have a mixture of classes and this later was a cause for disquiet when the work of the Social Service Association (see Social Service file) was left to the working class men.

[*The ANU Campus* by David Dexter Australian National University is a good read that includes the development of the Australian National University on the site.]

ACTON HOUSE - the old farm cottage on the property was used for visiting administrators from 1916. Those who were VIPs were accommodated in Yarralumla House - now Government House - on the other side of the river until 1924 when they could be accommodated at the newly opened Hotel Canberra.

THE RESIDENCY - later called *Canberra House*. It was built in reinforced concrete in 1913 for the Administrator. The two storey dwelling was ready for occupation January 1913. Col. Miller was the first Administrator and his first home was a tent. In 1924 it was renovated for the First Administrator, Mr John Butters - later Sir John.

The BACHELORS' QUARTERS - timber barracks with single rooms for single officials. In use from September 1912 until the 1990s. It was enlarged in 1923. It had several name changes. In the post World War 2 era it became the Acton Guest House and later when taken over by the Australian National University, Lennox House. From 1925 and the opening of Hotel Ainslie (Gorman House from 1927) where the young single ladies were accommodated a clear track was made connecting the two establishments. A number of marriages followed.



TIMBER COTTAGES ERECTED FOR A FEW MARRIED OFFICIALS. Started with three - added to gradually etc. These cottages today form part of the Australian National University and are in Liversidge Street and Balmain Crescent. One - the oldest - has been restored.

CAMPS FOR SINGLE MEN - LABOURERS & SURVEYORS/OFFICIALS - the first camps were tents/humpies. Each group had their own camps. These were in use into the 1920s.

MARRIED QUARTERS: Humpies built by married workmen - surveyors and nurserymen. The majority were removed after 1924 when portable timber workmen's cottages designed by HM Rolland became available for fifteen families.

EX-FARM COTTAGES - Some of these buildings such as the one Foreman Ryan used, were condemned. After his small son died from snakebite from a snake in the child's bed (in 1919 Christmas Eve), this cottage was finally made redundant. Ned and his wife then moved into a replacement cottage brought over from Molonglo Internment Camp. The death of the child drew attention to the poor living conditions and the Commonwealth paid the medical bills. Sadly Ned Ryan's wife lost the child she was carrying at the time of her son's death and there were no more children.

A 1917 list (Australian Archives A361/1 DSG17/1008) notes the following buildings on site in 1917 at Acton:

Acton House - one room let to AL Richmond at 5/- per week

Bachelors Quarters - Single officers 5/- per room per week

7 Cottages (timber) - married officials 10% of salary

1 Cottage - medical officer in charge Quarters allowed

1 Cottage - Bank Manager @ 82 pounds five shillings pa

Temporary Workman's Cottage ex-employee 2/- per week

Old Cottage - Lands & Survey employee 6/- per week

Old Cottage - C Kaye (included in lease of block)

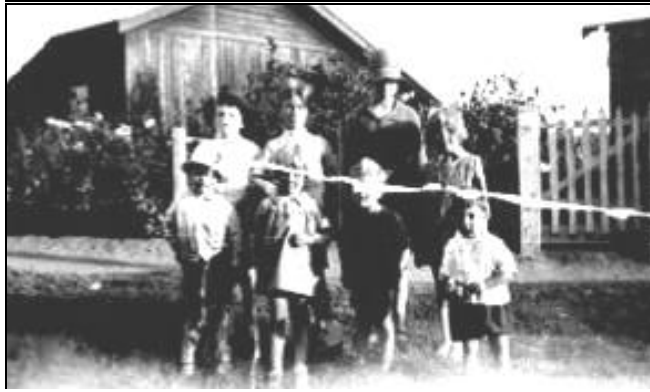
Old Cottage - Works Employee (included in lease of block).

The latter two cottages were probably the slab cottage built by C Kaye next to Klensendorlffe's old stone villa - then used as a barn - and Briar Farm Cottage - one of the tenant farms on Klensendorlffe's land. Both were on the south side of the Molonglo River and part of Acton until the early 1960s when this section of land became part of Yarralumla.

Under *Springbank* the next door property to Acton four old cottages were listed in the 1917 report. They were rented out at 9/- per week for the main house and 6/- per week for one and 4/- per week each for the other two.

In 1924 ten Rolland timber workmen's cottages were constructed on the flat land below Canberra House. Another five were added to bring the number up to 15. From the late 1950s these cottages were sold as tenants moved. One of these cottages is now in River Street, Oaks Estate.

Below: Dunshea children and friends outside Acton Cottages 1920s. Photograph loaned by Frank Dunshea.



No 4 Acton Cottages - Dunshea cottage



Above Molonglo River 1950s. The pontoon bridge was used by the members of the Royal Canberra Golf Club. This bridge was used by many Westlake people on their way to Acton. The banks were lined with willows that according to oral history were planted to hedge against drought.

Lyall Gillespie's card system has the following information: *In the olden times one of the striking features of the landscape at Canberra was the willows known as Blundell's willow and Bambridge's willows. These willows have a romantic history. In the year 1822 someone whose name is not known to was on his way to Australia called at the Island of St Helena and while there was allowed to cut some slips from the willows near Napoleon's grave. These he stuck into potatoes and brought to New South Wales where he*

planted them with perfect success. Fifteen or twenty years later Elija Bambridge bootmaker and farmer of Canberra got cuttings from these willow trees and planted them along the river at Canberra and Acton where they are growing today - no doubt to farming of the latter proposed will result in their destruction. Queanbeyan Age (old Canberra notes by EG Williams) 15.10.1929



Above Nursery at Yarralumla.



Above: 1950s flood photograph taken from the Acton side of the flood waters. Royal Canberra Hospital in the background. Hills in far distance are Gura Bung Dhaura Hills - Westlake

ARSENAL CAMPS

There were four sites selected as possible sites for the Arsenal Factory and township. They were Ainslie, near the Weetangera Road, Molonglo (?) and Tuggeranong. The last site was chosen for the Arsenal. The camp was established in July 1918 and removed by January 1922. Tuggeranong Homestead, however, was taken over by the Defence Department and it was here that Bean wrote his official war history.

BRICKYARDS & OTHER CAMPS WESTRIDGE (Yarralumla)

The men who built the Brickyards in 1913 lived in the Railway Camp (site unknown). The men who came to work in the Brickyards lived in Single Men's and Married Quarters erected in 1913. The first bricks produced were ready in mid 1913. The Brickyards closed towards the end of 1916 (World War 1 started in August 1914 and by 1916 most building work stopped in the FCT). The brickyards were in production again in 1920/21. The 1913/14 camps gradually emptied during the period of the war but did not close.

Nearby to the Brickyards in 1914 in Sheedy's paddock the big nursery was set up. In 1927 the Forestry School opened. In 1921/22 No 2 Sewer Camp was set up. The single men's tents went along the area of Banks Street on the lake end and the Mess was erected near the corner of Brown and Banks Streets. (See Sewer Camps)

Yarralumla House is near the Brickyards. This property was owned by a number of men including Terrence Aubrey Murray, Gibbs family and from the 1890s Frederick Campbell. He was responsible for the house now referred to as "Government House" - home of the Governor General. In the grounds were a number of cottages used by workmen. Between 1913 and 1924 the house was used by VIP's visiting Canberra including Walter Burley Griffin. After the opening of Hotel Canberra in December 1924 the VIPs moved to the Hotel and Yarralumla House was renovated in readiness for the Duke of York and his wife in 1927.

In the 1890s Fred Campbell had a new stone house built for the dairyman. This was taken over in the 1920s by the Corkhill family who were moved from their tenant farm near the site of the National Library. The Corkhill's renamed the dairy as *Riverview*. The Corkhill family remained on their property until the rising waters of Lake Burley Griffin forced their move in the early 1960s.

In the early years of the RMC a number of cadet camps were held on Yarralumla Property.

CAMPS at Westridge, Brickyards, Nursery (Yarralumla)

1913-1914 Married quarters - humpies constructed using timber uprights and beams, hessian walls and galvanised iron roofs and fireplaces. Single men's quarters - tents. Some built their own humpies. Both camps were in the vicinity of modern Banks Street Yarralumla and were removed in the early 1920s.

1913-1914 Single Men's Camp - would have been close to the married quarters but separate.

1914 - galvanized iron cottage for Nursery Foreman. This was the first of a number built for Nursery foremen. Another was built in June 1927. There were also cottages erected in the brickyards for managers of the brickworks.

1921 - ex-Molonglo Internment Camp buildings moved to an area near modern day Banks Street - around ten cottages for married men and one or more barracks for single men. These were moved sometime before new camps were erected in 1927. Mrs Townsend was Mess Caterer for the Brickyards Single Men's Camp.



Above F McKay of Westridge outside one of the ex-Molonglo buildings used for single men in the area of modern Banks Street.

1921 - seven small Lithgow style brick cottages erected in section 64 for men at the brickyards. The number was later increased to bring the total up to ten plus.

1926 - 1927 Weatherboard cottages erected for married men.

1927 - Single men and married men's camps erected near the brickworks. In 1944 the married quarters were modernised and were used for a number of years.

1927 - in the area of modern Solander Place in Yarralumla 27 lined cubicles were moved to the site to accommodate Forestry School Students. The first three cottages in Solander Place were shells of buildings used as Mess, Recreation and Ablution blocks for the students. Later a nissan type of hut was added to the complex. It was nick-named *The Waldorf*. Mrs Dora Riddle (nee Horan) was the Mess Caterer for many years.



Bill Boyd's truck at brickyards early 1920s

CAMP HILL & CAPITAL HILL

Camp hill is part of Capital Hill. On the old maps Capital Hill is named Kurrajong *Hill* after the one kurrajong tree on it. The second hostel built in Canberra is nearby. It is the Hotel Kurrajong.

Surveyors' Camps - 2nd March 1909

Erected near the creek on Camp Hill. On the other side of the creek another camp was erected for visitors. Surveying work was carried out for three weeks before the camp was pulled down. The following year another camp was set up in the same area. Site of this camp is off modern day State Circle. It is marked by Scrivener's concrete plan room that is the oldest building erected from territory times.

Reservoir Camp

On the 15th April 1913 a camp was set up on Camp Hill for men constructing a service reservoir.

Capitol Hill Camp

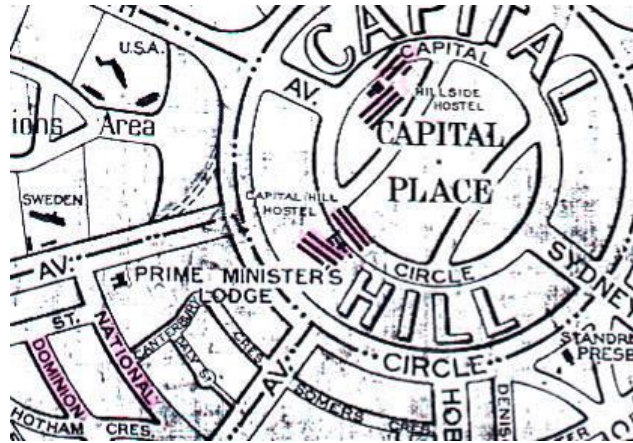
This camp was built on the opposite side of Capital Hill to the Surveyors' Camp. It was built in 1925 by Contractor John Howie who also built the Hotel Canberra. In the early post World War 2 years another camp was built near the old camp. In late 1928 the camp Mess was taken over by Mrs Stanley. Unfortunately the effects of the Great Depression affected her business and she walked out in the early 1930s. During the next decades the camp was used by a few old pensioners and in 1947 work started to renovate the camp in readiness for a new population from overseas and out of town. A new camp was built in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

No 1 Labourers Camp, Westlake 1923-1927 -on Capital Hill - probably the site chosen for Hillside Hostel. (see Westlake Camps)



Above - tents of No 1 Labourers Camp on Capitol Hill 1924. Mildenhall photograph NAA collection.

Below: Map early 1950s showing the sites of Capital Hill Hostel and Hillside Hostel. The latter was built in the early years after World War II. Capitol Hill Camp changed spelling in the 1940s to Capital Hill and was updated in 1947 to take numbers of *New Australians* and other single tradesmen who came to work on the building of the city.



COTTER RIVER CAMPS 1913-1917

1913 - The single men's camp was on the hillside near the dam wall and the married quarters near the area of the modern camping area close to the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Cotter Rivers. A tent school was erected for the children.

In 1921-1922 another camp was erected on the hillside on the other side of the road to the Cotter Pumping Station. The Mess Caterer was Mrs Stanley. It was used by the men building the bridge across the river and the road to Uriarra.

Camps were also established in the forest areas for road builders and those who planted the pines. Rabbits were also a major problem in the early years.

In the 1926/27 the first of a small number of cottages were built near the pumping station for the engineer. Other cottages were built near the kiosk in the Cotter Reserve. These were for men such as Stan Margules who looked after the reserve.

Below - top photograph married camp at Cotter River and bottom photograph single men's camp at Cotter c1917. The big tent is the school.





DUNTROON CAMPS

In June 1910 a decision to build the Royal Military College at Duntroon was made. The College opened on 27th June 1911. The original camps - married and single - were erected for men constructing the Royal Military College at Duntroon. These camps were known as the Duntroon Home & Territories Camps. By the 1920s the married camp was referred to as *Toorak*. A number of the cottages stood on the area now covered by the car park of the Defence Force Academy. The last residents left in the mid to late 1950s. Duntroon Reservoir Camp was situated in the gully between Mt Pleasant and Russell Hill.

THE POWER HOUSE CAMPS

The original choice of site for the Power House by Walter Burley Griffin was out of sight somewhere near Russell Hill on the north side of the Molonglo River. Instead it was built on the almost treeless plain not far from the railway in Eastlake (now Kingston). This building was reinforced concrete and completed in 1914. The Power House used coal. The old rail line came up behind the Power House and nearby to the building were others that housed the Fitters & Turners, Blacksmiths etc. The area between the Power House and Causeway was used to store materials required for building etc and here on the Causeway end was the Joiners Shop. The Government Printing Building and Bus Depot were also on this land. This was Canberra's first industrial area and problems with chemical pollution did occur.

Two camps were erected in 1913/1914 near the Power House - one for single men and the other for married men. In 1917 the married quarters - also referred to as *The Swagger Camp* - consisted of 21 cottages constructed from hessian and galvanised iron. By 1920 ten remained and the following year only 9. The men of this camp were threatened with a move to Molonglo - away from their work area near the Power House. Fortunately they were moved into 9 ex-Molonglo Buildings moved to a site near the sandwash near the Power House. These cottages were known as the **Eastlake Tenements**. Another six brought the numbers up to fifteen.

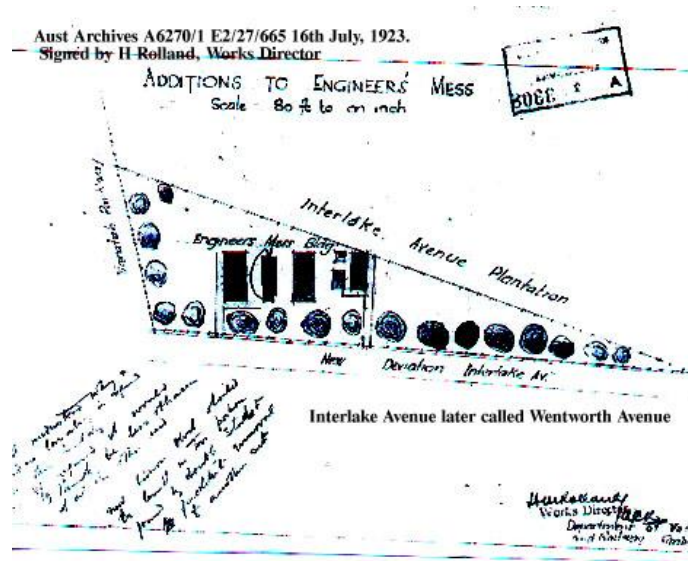


Above: Engineers Mess circa 1926. The photographer is Jack Benson who lived in the Mess. Photograph loaned by Val Emerton (nee Benson).

Opposite the Power House was the Engineers' Mess with timber barracks. It was erected sometime around 1916 and in 1923 updated to take increased numbers. In 1926 one of the buildings was moved to a site near the railway station and converted into the Friendly Society Hall. In the early 1960s it was moved to a new site near Hovea Street in O'Connor where it serves as a scout hall. Mrs Stanley was the Mess Caterer in 1919 to around 1921. Her daughter Cecily had the job of creeping over to the plantation to replant pines that their pet cockatoo pulled out. Mrs Stanley went from this job to the Cotter Bridge & Road Making Camp. Nearby to the Engineers Mess was the old galvanised iron Cof E Church of St Pauls (a new St Paul's was built at Manuka).

At the rear of the Power House were four galvanised iron cottages erected around 1916. By the early 1920s one had been removed. The other three remained into the 1930s and perhaps later. One family who lived in one of the cottages was the Williams family from Russell Hill. Hazel Hartley (nee Williams) recalled that her mother used to polish the lead floor of the bathroom with kerosene.

In 1921 10 small brick cottages were built on land opposite the Power House. The following year another ten brought the number up to twenty and by 1925 there were 35 cottages in the area. None of these cottages remain today. The sites are covered with redeveloped flats. They were known as the Power House Cottages and the finish was white stucco. The suburb today is Barton.



RAILWAY CAMP

Site of this camp is not known. The rail line between Canberra and Queanbeyan was completed in 1914. Men working on the construction of the brickworks at Westridge were housed in this camp.

RED HILL CAMPS

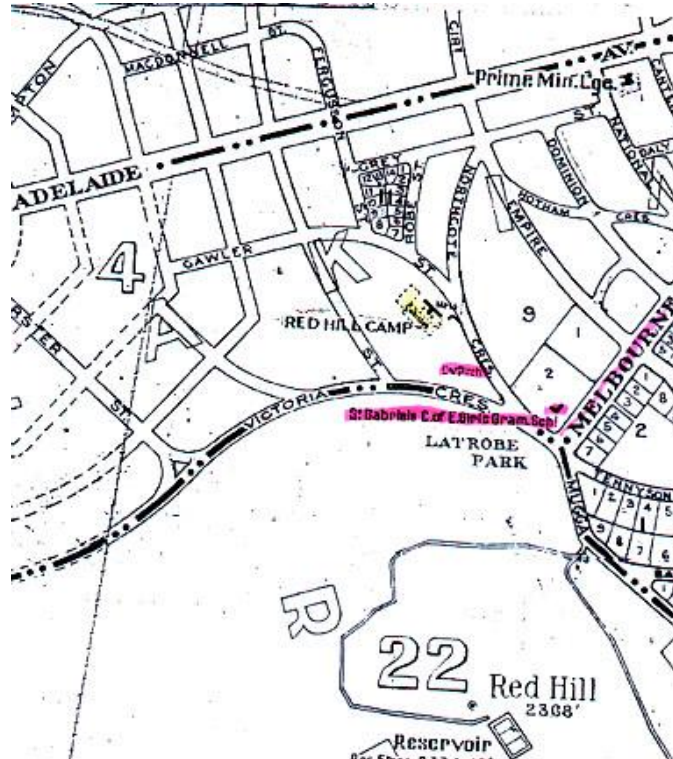
Pipe Layers Camp 1913. The access to the camp at the foot of Red Hill was from the old Uriarra Road. It had between 400 and 500 men. The men also constructed the reservoir on Red Hill.

1923- One camp mentioned in a petition signed by the men of this camp re the poor quality of the canvas supplied. By 1925 there were around 200 people living in this camp.

1926/1927 Monolyte Company private contractor's camp on Red Hill. Site unknown but probably near or on modern Latrobe Park.

1927 - Two Commonwealth single men's camps on Red Hill. One was Labourers No 1 that moved from Westlake in 1927 with their Mess Caterer Bill Mitchell. The other one was referred to as *Westlake Horse*

Camp. The site of one was near the corner of Melbourne Avenue and Empire Circuit. This may be the same site as the one mentioned in oral histories - now Latrobe Park (near Girls Grammar School). In 1927 the Horse Camp was moved to the extreme South West of Red Hill. Below: Red Hill Camp circa 1927. Over the page is a map of the camp site in 1927.



The next two photographs are from Ron Baum's collection. His father and other Estonians worked for the Monolyte Company who had their camp at Red Hill. The top photograph shows the Westlake Horse Camp at Red Hill and the lower one shows the Monolyte Company camp with additional cubicles probably belonging to the new camp established for the labourers from No 1 - 1927.



SEWER CAMPS

Work on the Outfall Sewer began in 1915. The next year it stopped as men and money went to war. In the early 1920s work recommenced. Many of the sewer miners came from old mining areas such as Majors Creek, Araluen and the Captain's Flat area. The foreman of the works was Jeremiah Dillon who lived from 1922 until his death in 1929 in a brick cottage on Bl 12, Section 64 Westridge. He was also the *Father of Football* in Canberra. His team was the *Sewer* team. The first section of the sewer was in use in 1927. Prior to the availability of the sewer the majority of larger settlements were connected to septic tanks. One remains in Stirling Park, Yarralumla. It is one of three put in to serve 61 cottages in The Gap at Westlake.

The first sewer camps were established in 1915 and at least one was in the vicinity of Yarralumla Woodshed area. There were four main sewer camps in the 1920s (1921-1927). Each of these camps had about 100 single men. From evidence found in *The Gap* at Westlake there were also married quarters humpies built by sewer workers.

No 1 Sewer Camp - also known as *Outfall Camp* was situated near the turnoff to the RSPCA on the Cotter Road. One of the three remaining heritage listed 1925 sewer vents is on the hillside near the point where the Tuggeranong Pathway meets with the Cotter Road. In 1924 there were around 100 men in this camp. The single men lived under canvas and an old photograph taken of the camp shows that a number of men used hessian for the walls and tin for fireplaces.



Above: No 1 Sewer Camp early 1920s.

No 2 Sewer Camp. This was situated near the point where modern Brown Street, Yarralumla meets with Banks Street. Mrs Stanley was Mess Caterer and the Mess room was on land near the corner of the two above mentioned streets on the lake side.

No 3 Sewer Camp was in The Gap at Westlake (now Stirling Park Yarralumla). It was there between 1922 and mid 1925. There were about 100 single men in the camp and an unknown number of married men. Recent work on the hillside above the camp (Stirling Ridge) indicates that a number of humpies were built along the slopes of the hillside. The Mess Caterer was Arthur Freeman who left in 1924 to move over to the Hostel Camp, Westlake.



No 4 Sewer Camp was situated in front of old Parliament House near the Molonglo River. In 1927 following the closure of the camp it was renovated and renamed Parkes Barracks. For a short time the men from the Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake moved to this site. It remained opened during the period of the Great Depression for use by single men passing through the territory in search of work. Men were only allowed to stay for two weeks and were supplied with food (tea, bread, flour, meat, sugar) and some soap during their stay.

Eastlake Sewer Camp. Site of this camp is unknown. It had 143 men in 1925. Eastlake today is called Kingston. It was most likely near the railway station.

OTHER CAMPS - ERECTED AFTER WORLD WAR ONE

The completion of Canberra following the end of World War One was in doubt. Money was short and many saw the construction of the city in terms of a *folly*. Around 1920 a decision was finally made that the building of the city should continue. However it was also decided to economize. Only sufficient money was made available to construct the basic buildings and other infrastructure necessary to move the parliament from Melbourne to Sydney. The result was a Provisional Parliament House rather than an impressive permanent structure and two administrative buildings, some shops, houses etc. The Duke of York opened the new Provisional Parliament House on 9th May 1927.

The Duke and Duchess stayed at the newly renovated Yarralumla House. This former home of Frederick Campbell is now known as Government House and is the home of the Governor General. (Up until December 1924 when the newly completed Hotel Canberra opened for business Yarralumla House had been used to accommodate VIPs. During the next few years Yarralumla House was renovated in readiness for the stay of the Duke & Duchess in 1927).

The visit of the Duke and Duchess was planned in great detail and culminated in the ceremonies on the 9th May 1927 with the official opening of the Federal Parliament in the Provisional Parliament House. However the expected crowds did not arrive for the grand occasion and somewhere in the vicinity of the Provisional Parliament House the freshly baked left over pies were buried.

The festivities on the 9th May were marred by the death of a young pilot, Flying Officer Francis Charles Ewen who died when his aeroplane nose dived into the hill in front of the house at the opening ceremony. He is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery in the Canberra suburb of Reid. The hill no longer exists. It was levelled to help create the grande vista across to the War Memorial.

THE CAMPS BLANDFORDIA/MANUKA AREAS

One established in the early 1920s near the area of the Bowling Green bounded by Hobart Avenue, National Circuit and Dominion Circuit with a population of between 400 and 500 men was established around 1922. The men, tradesmen, probably constructed the brick cottages built at Blandfordia (modern Forrest) in 1923. Sixteen cottages were constructed for officials. On 20th May 1924 the camp had a population of 93 men. The camp was surrounded by corrugated iron. Old timers remember another similar camp. It was in the area of the modern Manuka Oval.

BLACK MOUNTAIN CAMP

The site is not known but probably near the Quarry. The camp was occupied in 1925 and still there with one man in 1928.

CAUSEWAY & NEARBY AREAS (including EASTLAKE)

The area was named Causeway because it was near the causeway across the Molonglo River used to join the south side to the north with the rail line that continued across to Civic (main station). The big flood of 1922 knocked out the pylons that held the rail line above the water and it was never rebuilt. This rail line is not to be confused with the line from the brickworks at Westridge used to convey bricks to major building sites such as Power House, Hotel Kurrajong, Provisional Parliament House and Civic.

Causeway was a major centre. It is part of Eastlake and was near the Power House, workshops including the Joiners' Shop, Fitters & Turners, Blacksmith etc and storage areas. No 1 Labourers Camp was established near this area around 1921/1922. Another branch of the Labourers Camp appears to have been on the north side near Mt Pleasant. Herbert Daniel was Mess Caterer for the latter camp and later moved over to the Power House to be near his work there. When the camp was moved to Westlake he then obtained accommodation in a Westlake Cottage where he remained until retirement. His mess was taken over by Bill Mitchell. No 1 Labourers camp is often referred to, as *Daniel's No 1*.

(The first post war labourers' camp was made up of the unemployed ex-servicemen selected by the RSSILA and sent to Canberra to work. The number chosen was supposed to be around 200 from all states in Australia. The number was less but the project was somewhat of a failure. The first of the men to arrive

were sent to a camp at Mt Pleasant and three were expected to share a tent in which two was a crowd. No blankets were supplied and the month was May. Many of the men were not well and had to be returned home. The men were also expected to repay the Commonwealth the cost of their rail fare to Canberra. A chapter on this camp is included in this book.

A single men's camp was established in the early 1920s. It was called Eastlake Camp and was quite close to the later Causeway camp (1925-1950s). The Eastlake Camp was closed in late 1927 or early 1928 following a fire that closed the Mess in May 1928.

Today Causeway is included in the suburb of Kingston (Eastlake).

CAUSEWAY CAMP: This was built in 1925. It was one of three semi-permanent camps erected in 1925 by the Federal Capital Commission. The other two were Capitol Hill and White City. The idea of three major camps was to serve the northside (White City), the centre (Capitol Hill) and on the southside of the Molonglo River (Causeway). Causeway Camp like Capitol Hill remained into the post World War 11 era and was still in operation in the 1960s. White City was pulled down in the early 1930s. Canberra High School opened on the site of White City in 1939. Today this building is the Canberra Art School. Sitting on the football field is the Music School.

CAUSEWAY COTTAGES: There were 120 cottages erected at the Causeway in 1925 - 1926. They were laid out in a grid pattern. The design was similar to those erected in Westlake a year earlier and like the Westlake ones, were painted green. The cottage design was created by the government architect & Works Director HM Rolland and was based on the cottages erected by Contractor John Howie at Westlake in 1922. These cottages were a basic square 24ft x 24ft divided into four rooms - two bedrooms, living room and kitchen. The buildings were raised on concrete piers. At the back, resting on the ground was a combined laundry and bathroom. At Westlake and Acton these cottages had an indoor WC that took up portion of this combined laundry/bathroom. The little house was entered from a separate door on the outside of the house. At Causeway the WC was installed in a more traditional setting in a little house away from cottages. The first twenty cottages were built by Contractor John Howie. Another contract was let to Mason of Queanbeyan.

The 120 cottages included a number of cubicle cottages. Three cubicles were arranged in a "U" shape and the mid section roofed over. There was also a cottage - 121 Causeway - which may have been a house erected for the Stationmaster of the Railway - ?

The first twenty of the cottages erected by John Howie and Sons were up in time to for the flood waters of the July 1925 to come up to the eaves. Mason of Queanbeyan erected another 20 cottages around the same time.

The cottages were sold and removed in the mid 1970s and replaced with small brick cottages. The sites of the first twenty were not reused. Today the only relict of the old settlement is the Causeway Hall erected in one day by the men of the Social Service Association and until 1928 when the Albert Hall opened it was the largest hall in the territory. From here the first local radio broadcast was made - the Canberra Philharmonic Society sang!

CAMP BEHIND THE AMERICAN EAGLE

This camp was somewhere behind the American Eagle. Nearby was a major dump. The hole created by the removal of sand for building purposes was filled with rubbish. Dates of this camp are not certain and may be the Labourers Camp referred to earlier (ex-servicemen transferred to Canberra).

CAPITOL HILL CAMPS (see also earlier section)

Tenders for this camp were called for in the *Queanbeyan Age* 15th April 1925. John Howie & Sons who had their settlement on the hillside at Westlake (now the section of Stirling Park, Yarralumla opposite Lotus Bay) won the tender. This camp was erected on Capital Hill on the side nearest to the suburb of Forrest. In 1927 the camp had 8 huts each with eight rooms. In 1927 another 20 cubicles were added. From late 1928 Mrs Stanley was Mess Caterer. The camp did not close during the Great Depression but had only a few men - pensioners -staying there. In the early post World War 2 era it reopened fully again and for a time the Berry family were mess caterers. Around 1947 the camp was extended and in 1952 another hostel was constructed nearby. Capital Hill (note change of spelling) was closed in 1966. On the other side

of the hill another hostel was opened - named Hillside. It was for single men and opened in 1952. It closed in 1968.

CIVIC CENTRE TENEMENTS (1921-1924).

The site is not certain, but probably used by the men who constructed the 20 brick cottages nearby. In 1921 there were 21 men in the camp and by 20th May 1924 there were 12. These tenement buildings were ex-Molonglo Internment Camp buildings.

CONTRACTORS' CAMPS

Each contractor made available camp sites for his men. Some, such as Contractor John Howie had excellent accommodation put up for his workmen and their families. Others were not as good (see Red Hill Monolyte Co) and others allowed their men to build humpies and or erect tents. Sites of many are not known - nor the period of occupation other than the first was Contractor John Howie's erected at Westlake in 1922. The others were established during the 1920s when men were employed to build cottages in the permanent suburbs.

Bruce Eden & Griffiths - this camp was established prior to 7th December 1926. On 20th December 1928 the workshop, office and camp were demolished.

Contractor Howie's Settlement (see Westlake)

Colonel Walker's Camp - It was situated between the Power House and Scott's Crossing on the southern bank of the Molonglo River.

Hutchison's Camp In July 1927 it consisted of 6 blocks or huts each divided into 4 cubicles about 10ft x 10ft. No windows provided. It was due to be demolished in two and half month's time. (See 1927 Sanitation Report).

Oakley & Parkes - no information about site/s.

Mason's Camp - There was no area provided in the territory and Mason's men. He was a Queanbeyan man and in 1925 he asked permission from the Queanbeyan Council to erect a camp on his land at the corner of Crawford Street and Uriarra Road Queanbeyan. He was duly given permission to go ahead.

Red Hill Monolyte Company (see Red Hill Camps).

EASTLAKE CAMPS (see also CAUSEWAY)

Eastlake was later named *Kingston*. The Causeway and Power House were originally part of Eastlake.

Eastlake Tenements: These ex-Molonglo cottages were originally known as Power House Tenements. Single men used the barracks until 1921 when they were converted into cottages for nine families. Later added to bring the numbers up to 15. They were situated near Bowen Place close to the old sandwash.

Engineers Mess The mess was built sometime around 1916 if not sooner. From 1923 it was also referred to as *Eastlake Quarters*. At this time a number of buildings were added to the complex. In 1919 Mrs Stanley was the Mess Caterer. The site of the buildings was opposite the Power House on land close to that now occupied by the Greek Orthodox Church. In 1926 one building was moved to a site near the Railway Station and used as *The Friendly Society Hall*. In the early 1960s it made another moved to Hovea Street in O'Connor where it still serves as the 13th Troop Scout Hall.



Above: Scout Hall in Hovea Street O'Connor. It began its life as a building in the Engineers' Mess, and then moved in the mid 1920s to a site near the Railway Station where it was converted for use as the Friendly Societies Hall and in the early 1960s moved to its present site.

Eastlake Sewer Camp (see Sewer Camps)

Eastlake Camp - also referred to as Eastlake Mess. This camp was situated near the Causeway Camp in the area between modern Mildura Street and Wentworth Avenue. It closed on 30th May 1928. At the end of 1927 the Mess was burnt down and for awhile the men of this camp ate at the Causeway Camp Mess.

Four cottages (galvanised iron) built behind the Power House (see Power House) circa 1916. By 1921 there were only three cottages.

LADY HOPETOUN CLUB

The club was founded in 1926 on 26th June. It was for young ladies of the domestic servant class, shop assistants and typists. They were housed in two houses in Blandfordia - later three at the corner of Dominion Circuit & Melbourne Avenue. Miss Hawkins was the Matron and the club was disbanded on 17th December 1928. The YWCA then moved into Canberra. Miss Hawkins resigned her position in late 1928 and moved to New Zealand.



NAA Image no. : A3560, 4807

MOLONGLO 1918-1950s

In 1918 an internment camp was built at Molonglo - now an industrial area of Canberra known as Fyshwick. JS Murdoch designed the complex and an early description is as follows:

About 250 acres of vacant land between Queanbeyan and Canberra were converted into a township with provision for 560 families and a large number of single people. The group of houses and other buildings and property were well equipped, furnished and served with water sewerage and electricity. Incidental buildings and works included large stores for baggage of the internees, bakers and butchers shops, fire

station, public school teacher's residence, hospital and assembly hall as well as many structures for the housing and general purpose of the military, such as look out tower, guard house, barracks, stables, Commandant's residence and special railway loop, with station and goods shed.

This article was written only a few years after the Molonglo Internment Camp was converted into a workmen's settlement (120 3-6 roomed cottages & single accommodation for 150 tradesmen) and contains quite a number of errors. Water and sewerage (connected to a septic tank) services were provided but not electricity. It was added a few years later. The first school teacher was Mr Ivey who moved into a converted building in the early 1920s. The settlement, however, did have the first gaol in the territory and by the time the internment camp used for civilian aliens was converted half the buildings had already been sold and moved to new sites.

The buildings were built by four contractors, Ellis Bros, Saxon & Binns, George Hudson Pty Ltd and the State Timber Yards. The extensive engineering works and military accessory buildings were directed by the Department and included a number of structures removed from the AIF Officers Training School at Duntroon (established 1915). Following the closure of the camp the hospital was removed and returned to Duntroon on 25th January 1919. The Dispensary in 1920 was moved to Acton where it was modified to make it suitable for Ned Ryan and his wife to live in.

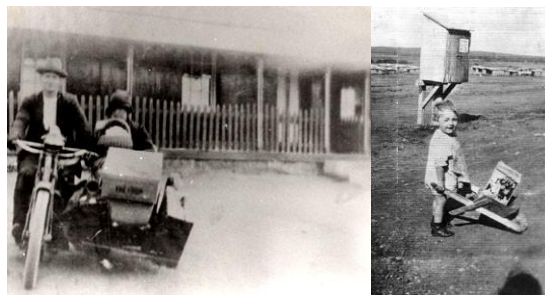
The water supply for the camp was kept in a reservoir on the hill which later became the site of Canberra's first radio station - 2CA. The water came from wells 18 foot deep that were dug at the river bank and later from the Cotter following the pumping of water from that source. A septic system was installed.

A number of articles in Australian Archives refer to the secrecy and speed of the building of the Molonglo Internment Camp. Since 1200 men were used and the supplies came from nearby Queanbeyan it is extremely doubtful that there was any secrecy at all.

In 1920 or early 1921 a decision was made to use the buildings not sold as accommodation for workmen. A number of buildings were also moved to other sites for accommodation and included, Arsenal, Brickworks, Civic Centre, Blandfordia, Mugga Quarry, Eastlake.

In 1922 the population at Molonglo was around 200 and by May 1925 it had grown to 760 people. It was the largest concentration of people in the FCT. Westlake was a close second in 1925 with a population of 700. A description of buildings is found in the 1927 Sanitation report. In 1927 the barracks used for cottage accommodation were modified to create single buildings. Official descriptions speak highly of the accommodation - requests from the Progress Association and oral histories reveal the opposite. They buildings were not lined and the timber once dried left gaping holes in the walls through which the wind whistled. The buildings were also infested with bed bugs and were very hot in summer and freezing in winter. The settlement, however did have a primary and infants school.

The next photograph taken by Jack Jenkins shows a friend of his with his wife leaving Molonglo Settlement with all their worldly goods. The Great Depression had already commenced in the territory following the opening of Parliament in May 1927 and this couple had to leave to find work. Below right - one of the small Convine children - John - child of Mess Caterer Molonglo Tradesmen's Camp. The child died a few weeks after this photograph was taken following an accident in the kitchen of the Mess.



Camp near the Billabong, Commonwealth Bridge Area: It was on the southern side of the river and there is mention of another camp nearby. This may be Colonel Walker's Camp.

Lennox Crossing - this may be one of the camps referred to above. This crossing is now under the waters of Lake Burley Griffin - it used to join the south side to Acton Peninsula. This was a Pug Camp (Horse & Dray). Below small son of Mess Caterer Bill Convine c1922 at Molonglo.

MOUNT AINSLIE CAMPS

There were a number of camps on Mount Ainslie. One was in situ in 1923 and in 1927 it was moved to another site near the corner of Ebdon and Chisholm Streets Ainslie. The camp was officially closed in 1929 but in fact remained open for use by married men moving through the territory in search of work. It was not in good condition at that time.

MOUNT PLEASANT CAMP

This may be the camp established for ex-servicemen brought to Canberra in 1922 to work on the roads and other labouring work. It may also refer to the Duntroon Reservoir Camp that was on Russell Hill.

MUGGA QUARRY CAMP

It opened in the 1922/23 financial year. In the 1926/27 financial year it was refurbished and it was probably at this time cubicles came into use. Mrs Turner was the Mess Caterer and the site of the camp was on the high side of the hill off Mugga Lane near the site of Murray's Coach Depot. A number of buildings used in the camp were ex-Molonglo ones and in the later years post 1926 a number of cubicles were supplied to accommodate workmen.



Above: Mugga Quarry 1928. The man sitting second from left is Ermino Cappello who first came to Canberra from Italy in 1913 to work on the construction of the Power House.

NORTHBOURNE CAMPS

These camps were near the site of the trees planted as windbreaks in Haig Park on the north side of the Civic Centre. One, referred to as Northbourne No 2 was near the modern Henty Street opposite Lonsdale Street. It was established by March 1926 and dismantled on 12th January 1928. The men were then moved to the new camp on Mt Ainslie. HLB Lasseter lived in this camp between March 1926 and December of that year. The camp consisted of 6 rows of canvas & hessian structures - each 10ft x 8ft and used by two men.

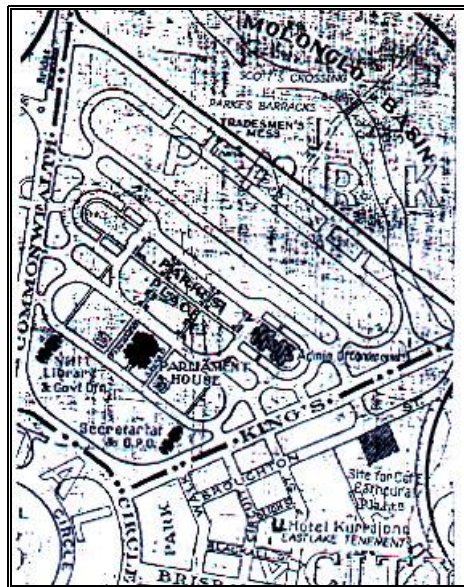
Northbourne No 1 was sited in the vicinity of the corner of Girrahween and Lonsdale Streets.



Above: Men at Northbourne Camp circa 1926. Top second from right is Harold Bell Lasseter and seated bottom row second from right, Biddles whose family loaned the photograph.

PARKES BARRACKS

This was the old No 4 Sewer Camp - closed and reopened in 1928. It was situated in front of the Provisional Parliament House on the southern bank of the Molonglo River. The men from the Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake used the refurbished camp after it closed towards the end of 1927. Parkes Barracks was closed on 30th June 1929 but like the Mt Ainslie camp remained open for men coming to the FCT in search of work. This camp was used for single men only and they were only allowed a two week stay during which time they were given the basic foods of bread, potatoes, jam, sugar, tea and meat.



PRINTERS QUARTERS

Twelve semi-detached brick cottages (24 houses) each with five bedrooms were built at Eastlake in 1926. Modern Fraser Court opposite the Kingston Shops covered the site of the Printers Quarters. These flats were pulled down in the first decade of 21st century. In the centre of the block was the Mess Room and facilities. The cottages were built by Mason of Queanbeyan and were rendered and painted white. As the name suggests it was built for single Printers and a few married couples transferred to Canberra from 1926.

RIVERBOURNE

The site of Riverbourne was three miles from the Queanbeyan Post Office on the southern bank of the Molonglo River - roughly on a site opposite Harman Naval Station. Sites were set aside in 1925 for married men to erect their own cottages. From 1926 these families were moved to new sites including the newly opened Russell Hill.

RUSSELL HILL

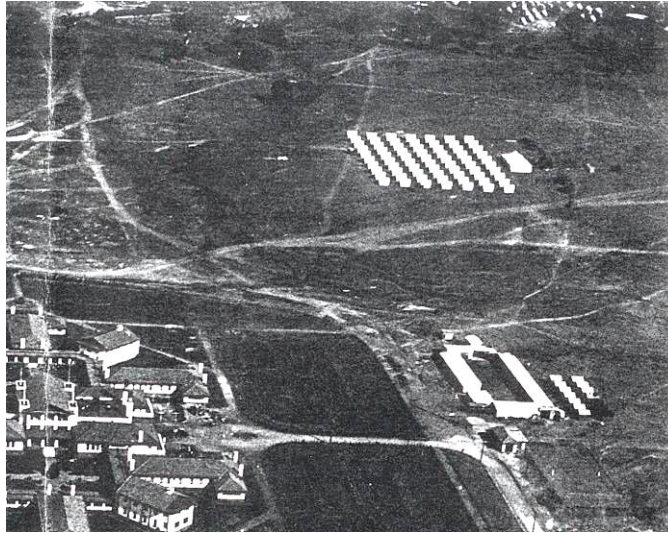
One hundred and twenty sites were set aside in 1926 for married men to construct their own cottages. HLB Lasseter was joined by his wife and children in December 1926 and built a cottage in this settlement. Water was connected but no electricity or sewerage. In September 1926 the old Masonic Hall at Acton was transferred to Russell Hill where it was converted into a school. The school closed in 1929 following the departure of many residents many of whom left the territory in search of work. The settlement site is close to Campbell Shops.



HAROLD LASSETER with his family shortly before his death.



WESTLAKE



Above is the shortlived camp erected for the men of the police force May 1927. In the background top right is the Tradesmen's Camp. The building on the left is the Hotel Canberra. CDHS photograph. Three other camps were erected in May 1927 for members of the forces taking part in the celebrations in May 1927 when the Duke of York opened the Federal Parliament House. The airforce were housed near Fairbairn, the navy in the Westlake Horse Paddock (below Stirling Ridge Yarralumla on the western side) and the army not far from York Park where the Duke took the salute. The rotunda built for the purpose was a few years later pulled down. York Park today is covered with buildings. It was on the Telopea Park side of Capital Hill near St Andrew's Cathedral.

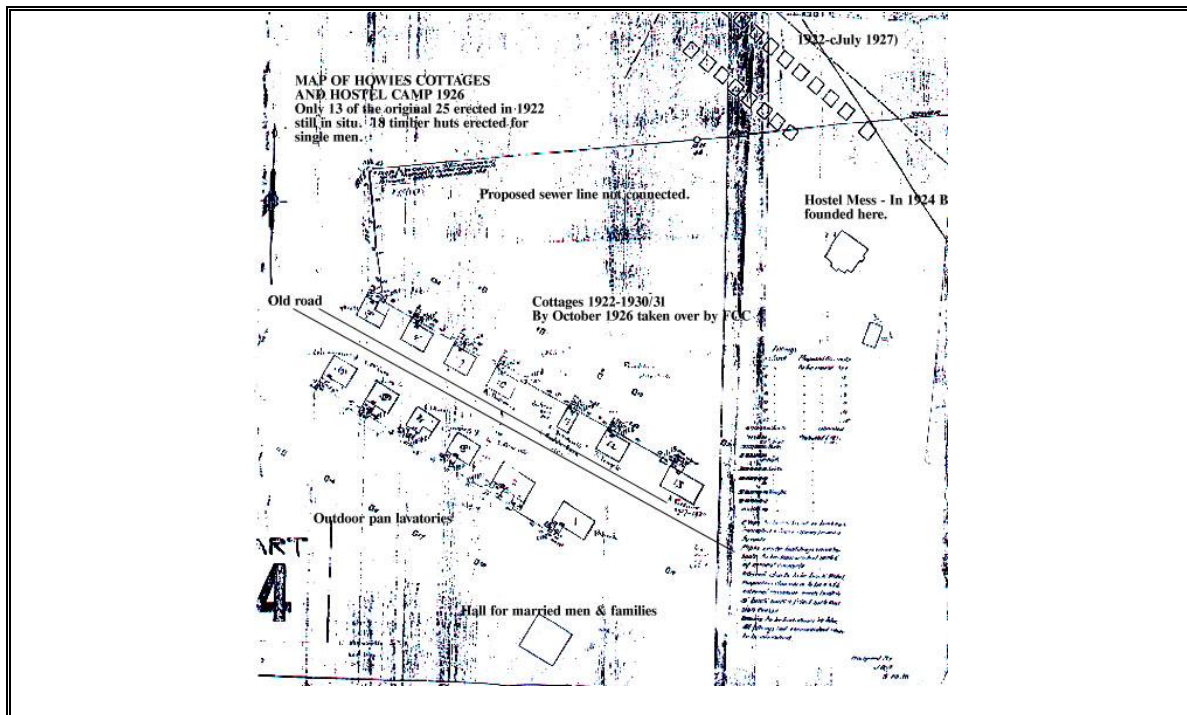


Above Mildenhall photograph (NAA collection) of No 1 Labourers Camp on Capital Hill.

Walter Burley Griffin named a section of land on the southern bank of the Molonglo River between the area of Westridge (Yarralumla) and Capital Hill and the Molonglo River back to Red Hill. Today the land is Stirling Park, embassy sites and Capital Hill. This site was chosen to accommodate workmen employed on the construction of the sewer, parliament house, administrative buildings and surrounds. In the 1920s the following were situated at Westlake:

1. Howies Settlement consisting of 25 timber cottages, 18 huts, two recreational halls, Lavatories etc. They were on site in 1922 and placed either side of an old road that came from Briar Farm (now covered by Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club). Sometime just before the July 1927 Sanitation Report the Hostel Camp (single men) had been removed and 12 of the cottages. The last 13 of Howie's cottages remained until 1931. HM Rolland viewed the cottages before designing the workmen's cottages erected in The Gap at Westlake.

2. No 3 Sewer Camp in the Gap at Westlake. 1922-mid 1925. There were around fifty tents for around 100 men (2 to each tent). There were also a number of humpies erected by married men - on the hillside now known as Stirling Ridge, Yarralumla.
3. Old Tradesmen's Camp moved to Westlake in mid 1923 and moved towards the end of 1927 to Parkes Barracks (old No 4 Sewer Camp).
4. May 1924 No 1 Labourers Camp established at Westlake. In late 1927 it was moved to another site on Red Hill. A note in Australian Archives CP464/3/1 Bundle 1/B968 states that the occupants of No 1 Workmen's Mess (H Daniel Caterer) "are" notified that all rooms and tents to be vacated by 13th May, 1924. Tents were to be ready at Westlake for the men. This camp was due to be pulled down circa August 1927 and the men moved into cubicles at Red Hill.
5. Westlake Horse Camp - site unknown but near the other camps. It was in use in 1927. It was planned to erect 50 cubicles in this camp in 1927.
6. Westlake Cottages in The Gap. The first twenty were occupied from March 1924. Another 32 were constructed and in use in 1924. Following the departure of No3 Sewer Camp another ten cottages were built on the site of the tents of No 3. These differed to the earlier cottages in that they were built by a contractor (Stacey & Co), were lined, and placed the bath/room lavatory block on the other side of the rear of the cottages to the earlier cottages.



Above: Map of area of Howies Cottages & Hostel Camp October 1926. The FCC had taken over the settlements and by that time only 13 of the original 25 cottages remained

Briar Farm Cottage: This was one of two tenant farms on the southern bank of the Molonglo River between the area of Commonwealth Avenue, hills to the south and Westridge. One, tenanted by the Kaye family from 1854 used Klensendorff's stone villa as first a farm house and from the early 1890s when a new slab hut was built, as a barn. The site of the farm house was in the vicinity of Lennox Park at the rear of the Hotel Canberra (Hyatt). Briar Farm cottage was near the Creek that ran through The Gap at Westlake. Today the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club buildings cover the site. Briar Farm, the brick cottage, was built in 1870 and pulled down in 1950. From 1870 until 1913 members of the Kinlyside family

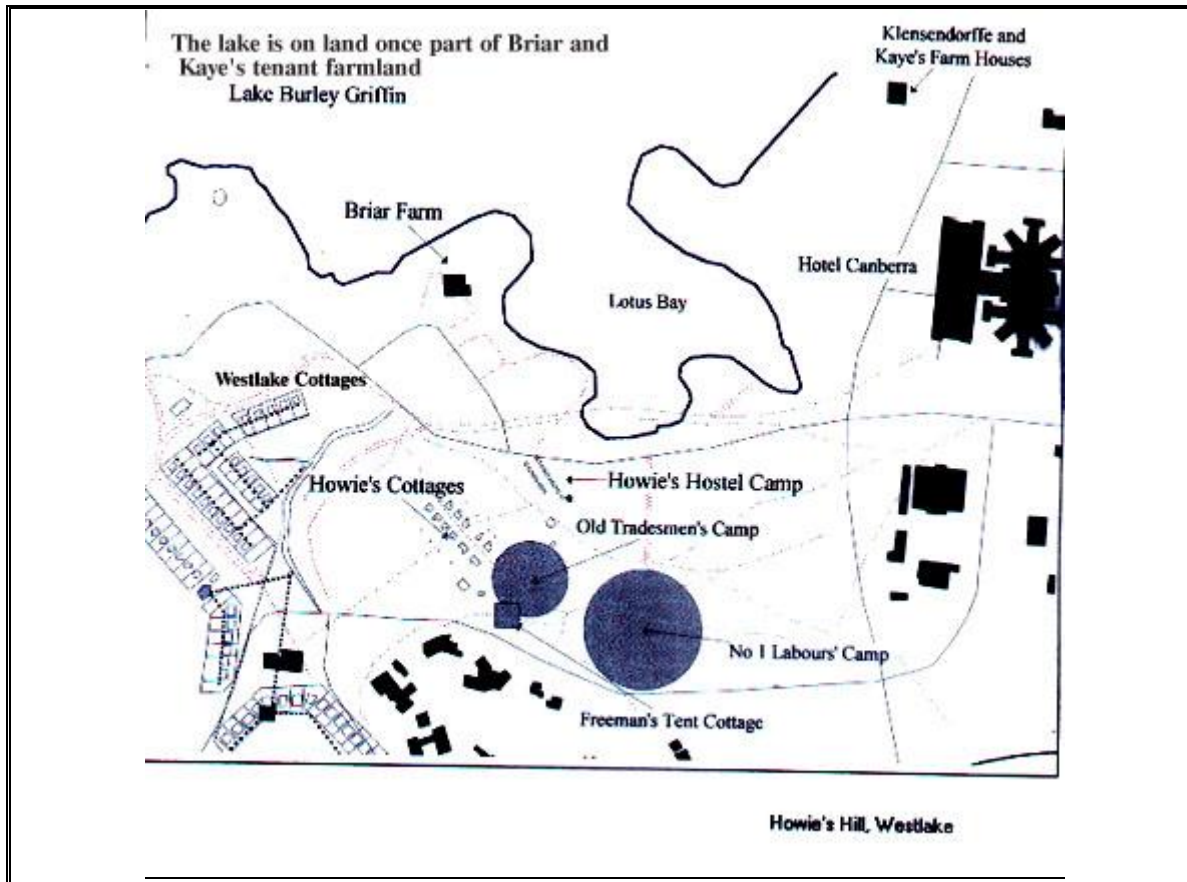
lived there. From 1913 until 1950 the Commonwealth to its employees leased the farm cottage. The last was Charles Foster Day who took up residence in 1927.

WHITE CITY CAMP

This camp was built in 1925. It was originally a tent camp but from 1926 these were gradually replaced with cubicles later painted green. There was also a White City Horse Camp nearby. The site of the camp was near the old Canberra High School that opened its doors in 1939. The High School is now the Canberra School of Art. White City Camp's first Mess Caterer was William Convine and his wife, Alice. The last Mess Caterer was Bill Mitchell. He too suffered the effects of non payment by his customers during the Great Depression. He went out of business in 1931 and the camp closed.

Below: Photograph in the May, 1927 issue of *The Canberra Community News*. It shows the Canberra Fire Brigade Car. The man on the far side is Percy Douglas, the Fire Chief and the other man is related to the Canberra farming family of Hamilton. Percy Douglas lived for a time at Briar Farm.





The above map has No 1 Labourers Camp in the wrong area. It is now known to be on Capital Hill. The site of the shortlived Police Camp erected for the men attending the May 9 1927 ceremonies was on this site.

YARRALUMLA WOOLSHED

The woolshed was built around 1912 and workmen used it from time to time. In 1922 it was used illegally and the men were asked to leave. There were also Cadet camps from the RMC Duntroon in the vicinity of Yarralumla House (now the Governor General's place) - used around 1910-1914 periods.

ROAD MAKING CAMPS

Selwyn Walk, a Queanbeyan born man showed me the sites of a number of these camps. His father, Henry, was in charge of work on many of the roads including Jerrabomberra Avenue, Limestone Avenue, Fitz' Hill Road and Mt Franklin Road. His nick-name was *Cork*. He acquired it following his habit of bobbing up after being thrown off the suspension bridge across the Queanbeyan River. Men who returned home only at weekends inhabited many of the camps out of town. They brought their own food and cooked it. Some of the single men stayed in the camp until the work was completed. These camps had no water supplied hence they were often placed near a creek or the river.

Eastlake: Established circa 1921 and occupied mainly by horse drivers. It was situated between Kennedy & Leichhardt Streets Eastlake (Kingston).

Jerrabomberra: This road making camp in the modern suburb of Narrabundah consisted mainly of horse & dray men and was established in 1918. The site of the camp may be viewed from the cut-off section of Jerrabomberra Avenue (no longer joins Cooma Road) and was in the paddock over to the right.

Corner of Jerrabomberra Avenue & Goyder Street, Narrabundah. Pick and shovel men working with horses and drays lived in this camp. They were in situ during the July flood of 1925.

Across the road from Harman Naval Base There was a large married quarters camp on this site and may be Riverbourne.

200 yards beyond Narrabundah Lane. Selwyn pointed the site of this camp. His father called it *Flat Rock Camp*. It is in the vicinity of the corner of Hindmarsh Drive and Dalrymple Street Red Hill. Selwyn also mentioned the boggy area near the Canberra Boys Grammar School. A spring which starts on Red Hill continued down into this area and thence to Telopea Park. The area in Monaro Crescent was planted with willow trees in an attempt to soak up some of water. Golden Grove Road was a stream bed and the cottages nearby were built on fill.

Opposite the 8 mile peg near the Prime Minister's Lodge. This camp was on the hill opposite the Lodge and was established in the early 1920s when Adelaide Avenue was built. The mile pegs were measured from the Queanbeyan Post Office.

Mt Franklin Road Camp. The road took six years to build. It was commenced in April 1933 and when this road became too icy to work on the men moved to Two Stick Road. The Mount Franklin road was surveyed by Colonel Goodwin and cost 1,000 pounds per mile to build. The men had a small yellow tractor to help but most of the work was carried out by the men digging and pushing the dirt over the side.

Mt Pleasant Camp. -

Opposite the Ten Mile near Limestone Avenue

Tharwa Road Building Camp - it was in use in 1928

Fire Station Camps - Fire Reports in Australian Archives for the years 1928-1929 referred to Weetangera Fire Station at McDonald's Camp. Others were at Mt Stromlo, The Rivers (Maxwell Property) and Tuggeranong Property.

Uriarra - One road making camp was established in December 1922. Three camps were established on Uriarra Property. On the 19th June 1923 the camp was closed and the men paid off.

FORESTRY CAMPS

Replanting of the Limestone Plains and surrounding hillsides began in the teen years of the last century. The plantations of pines from Mt Stromlo across to Black Mountain were planted in 1926 to form a picturesque background to the city. A number of windbreak plantations such as the one near Northbourne Avenue and the Power House were planted in the early 1920s. In the 1930s more planting of hillsides etc was carried out because this was a labour intensive occupation and men were paid one penny per hole. At this time the Unemployment Relief Committee employed married men for around one week in four and single men for a few days in six weeks. The camps were not used all the time. Some of the camps recorded are:

Condor Creek also known as **Perret's Camp**. This camp was subject of reports on 21st May 1927 and 28th March 1929. On the 14th March 1932 it was used by 35 men working on planting. On the 1st June 1932 the camp was moved to the right side of the Brindabella Road.

Green Hills - in 1927 three men are recorded as living in this camp

Uriarra- On 3rd June 1923 the Uriarra Forestry Camp was situated approximately 40 yards off Conder Stream and 11 men were engaged in clearing and digging up rabbit burrows. By 11th March 1931 provision was made to add a further 12 tents. Later this camp was moved to a site closer to Uriarra Homestead.

Pierce's Creek - 22nd May 1929 there was a cubicle in situ for use by a married man in charge of planting (Mr Harold Tuson). A report suggested that three or four cubicles should be added to make the area more

comfortable. Mr Tusan in 1926 was a Kowen Forest where he was in charge of the road to Queanbeyan/Canberra and the planting.

Mt Stromlo Camps - one camp was established by 25th July 1917. Others were erected in the 1920s for the men working on various buildings on Mt Stromlo (Observatory & pine forests).

Stromlo Pipe Layers Camp 1913

Saw Mill Camp- in 1936 it was reported as being the property of Cavanaugh

Blundell's Camp_It was on Condor Creek 28th August 1936

Mt Franklin Workmen's Camp_ At 28th August 1936 this camp was situated two miles from the Mt Franklin Terminus

Forestry Camp - In 1933 it was situated approximately 7 miles from the Brindabella Terminus on Mt Franklin and had 4 cubicles and a cooking building.

Bull Paddock Camp: On 3rd June 1929 this camp was situated approximately one and half miles from Cotter River. It was near the Brindabella Road approximately one mile from the Uriarra Homestead and two point one miles from Conder River and edge of fall to Cotter River. The foreman was Bradley and the camp consisted of 18 tents, 3 cubicles, and 2 earth closets. On 13th April 1932 there were 22 men in the camp.

Tidbinbilla Camps There was one permanent camp near the entrance to the Car Park near Kangaroo enclosure. Another behind Elsie & Eric Blewitt's cottage (now Birrigai), in Alf Marsh's Top Paddock, under the trees at Flint's place, Rayner's Mill, Eucalyptus cutters at Nildesperandum, another near Tidbinbilla Creek etc on properties in the area.

OAKS ESTATE

This suburb of Canberra was part of Queanbeyan until the rail line was used to mark the border between NSW and FCT. Oaks Estate is on the FCT side of the line. Because of its proximity to Queanbeyan shops and other facilities and in the ACT and the requirement that workmen in the FCT lived in the territory during the construction era it became a popular place for construction workers to find accommodation. The Commonwealth tried to give it back to NSW but did not have the powers to do so. As a result this old settlement area was ignored by the authorities with the result that today it has a range of buildings that mirror the various periods of early housing in the FCT including one Acton workmen's cottage (designed by HM Rolland) transferred to its site in River Street in the 1950s.



Les Robertson's cottage constructed by his parents in the teen years of the last century. Oaks Estate. The cottage is now owned by the ACT Government. At time of updating this information - October 2010 - this house still sits derelict - Photograph, Karen Williams.