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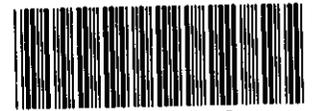
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'Autumn Tints' in the Adelaide Hills: the Garden of 'Wairoa'

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The tinted foliage of our gardens, so charming to the landscape pictures of scenery, is fast fading away, and little now remains but naked branches to relieve the dull monotony of sombre evergreen. But we cannot allow the beauty of this transformation scene to pass without a record. To this end a little excursion was made to the hills, where the glory of autumn is seen at its best. ...

Traversing an up-hill road ... a beautiful little panoramic view is obtained across a deep gully to Mr. Tom Barr Smith's house and garden set on the rising slope beyond. It is a charming picture of autumnal tinting. The distant view is, perhaps, the prettiest, but we needs must venture into closer view of the beauties, and find a splendid collection of English and Japanese Maples which lend the greater portion of the coloring, while the Elms, Oaks, Firs, Pines, Willows, and Poplars intermingle with the giant growths to complete the charm.[sic]¹

The Adelaide Hills have long been associated with the rich growths, fruits and flowers that could be propagated and harvested in the region. Its rich acidic soils, cooler temperate climate, and more reliable rainfall lend it to being the retreat from the onslaught of summer's ravages on the plains. Within this environment numerous hill-station estates were established. As the appellation suggests, these were places high above dry, flat, monotonous plains, where the breezes wafted and where one could recharge one's self from the toils of work. The *Cyclopedia of*

Victoria (1904) described such places, when referring to the Mount Macedon Ranges, as

... a family sanatorium ... delicate people and children desiccated and withered by the hot air of the city and suburbs during the months of December, January and February, soon reacquired their bloom and freshness and lost their languor and lassitude.²

The *Cyclopaedia of South Australia* (1909) recorded the Adelaide Hills in a more restrained vein, noting that the appellation 'Mount Lofty'

... applies to the mountain itself, to the plateau on its summit where the monumental beacon stands, to the slopes which are being increasingly adorned with stately mansions in their beautiful grounds, to the hamlets under the shadow of the mount, and to the station which is its nearest approach by rail. ... all about are handsome summer residences of the wealthy Adelaide citizens.

Between the [Mount Lofty] station and the Mount lies the valley down which the coach road runs, and over the entire region the lavish gifts of Nature have been utilized by human industry, taste and skill.³

The garden of 'Wairoa'

One of these 'handsome summer residences' was the property of 'Wairoa' that is nestled on the northern flanks of a ridge just before one arrives at Aldgate. This article reviews the design and social history of the 'Wairoa' property, now home to

the Marbury School, and previously home to the Horn, Barr Smith, and Gosse families. It was also the palette for the gardening creation of George Sparrow that was subsequently nurtured by the Kelly and Scott gardening families. It draws directly upon research undertaken to compile a Conservation Study for the 'Wairoa' property.⁴

The table below summarises the periods of ownership and landscape design styles that persisted. A key factor that ensured the continuity and integrity of the gardens has been the deliberate decision by successive owners to change little but to enhance the property, and secondly that there has been continuity in the philosophies of the gardeners who nurtured the property and its plantings.

Creating the garden 1888-1896

In 1857 the locality encompassing the property and much of Aldgate was surveyed and subdivided into sections and allotments.⁵ From 1857 to 1888 the land comprising 'Wairoa' was felled for timber and developed for grazing purposes. Several of the original Candlebarks were kept but much of the landscape was cleared and fenced, with cattle and sheep introduced or orchards established, depending upon the richness of the soils.⁶

In January 1888 William Austin Horn (1841-1922) acquired the 'Wairoa' property from John James ('the younger').⁷ Horn was a mining stockholder, pastoralist and politician who rose to a senior position in Adelaide society. Born into the family of New South Wales storekeepers

Thematic Design & Social Phases at 'Wairoa'

Years	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Owner	William Horn	Tom & Mary Elder Barr Smith				Sir James & Lady Joanna Gosse			Marbury School		
Head Gardeners	George Sparrow		William Kelly			Herb Scott					
Junior Gardeners	William Kelly c. 5 years		Herb Scott c. 5 years			Ben Jackson c. 10-12 years		Phil Wilde c. 5 years			
Landscape Design Phases	Victorian	Edwardian				Adelaide Hills, Native Bushland & Eclectic					

Edward and Emily Horn, at Maneroo, as the second son of eight children, he arrived in South Australia with his family in 1852. He was educated at St Peter's College, and later at Worcester College at Oxford. He is directly associated with the 1861 discovery and registration of mining leases on the Moonta property of Walter Watson Hughes. Following this incident Horn became a shareholder, and commenced investing in pastoral stations including those around Streaky Bay and the Barrier Ranges (Broken Hill), and in mining companies at Broken Hill and Silverton. These profitable investments led him into politics as a member for Flinders in the House of Assembly (1887-1893) and to pursuits with the arts. In September 1879 he married Penelope (Nelly) Elizabeth *née* Belt (1843-1944), the eldest daughter of William Belt of 'The Almonds' at Walkerville, and they had eight children, seven of whom survived.⁸

Art, philosophy and literature were Horn's passions. He donated the classical Greek statues of 'The Athlete', 'Venus Canova', and 'Farnese Hercules' to the City of Adelaide, the Heinrich Heuzenroeder coin collection to the South Australian Museum in 1890, and financially supported several central Australian expeditions. He had a reputation as a classical scholar but, at the same time, an eccentric. He participated in art, sculpture, philanthropy, authorship and had a passion for horse riding. He authored *Bush Echoes* (1901) and *Notes by a Nomad* (1906), that recall in verse and prose his younger days with horse and whip.

Their residence and coachhouse in Walkerville, called 'Holmwood', was constructed in the mid 1880s in Gothic Revival style, and financed from Horn's Silverton mine profits. It mimicked 'Holmwood' in Glasgow, designed by architect Andrew Thomson in 1856-58 in the Gothic Revival style, which the Horns visited on their honeymoon. The purchase of the land at Aldgate followed thereafter in January 1888. By 1890 'Wairoa' served as their summer residence, and was often occupied by Nelly and the children. 'Holmwood' served as the plains residence.

Between January 1888 and March 1896 Horn set about constructing a residence, establishing a garden and a driveway, and erecting various out-buildings at 'Wairoa'. He also installed a water reticulation system and arranged for bores to be established. To achieve these objectives he commissioned an architect to design the residence and sought out a landscape gardener. The architect selected is not recorded but it is possible that it was prominent Adelaide architect George Klewitz Soward (1857-1941). Walter Charles Torode was most likely the builder. Torode's records do not indicate this commission. However he did erect 'Kinclaven' for Charles Austin Horn, William's brother, for £4250, and undertook minor works to the value of £275 on 'Wairoa' at an unspecified time.⁹ George Sparrow was sought after as the head gardener. It is also conceivable that the Horns acquired plans for a classical revival residence and commissioned a builder to construct it according to unknown plans as had been the practice at 'Holmwood'.

With this expertise, and driven by his passion for the sculptural and philosophical arts, Horn crafted the structure of the landscape that exists today at 'Wairoa'. He also named the property 'Wairoa' from a Maori word meaning 'long water', although the reason for his choice is unclear.

He chose George Sparrow as head gardener, probably for three factors: his expertise and design interest in carpet bedding and English garden design styles; his horticultural competency and training in England; and his local residency, having recently ceased employment with the Downer family at 'Monalta'.

George Sparrow (1854-1913) was born in Stowmarket, Suffolk, into a Baptist community. He was trained in a Suffolk nursery and on several estates in the central Suffolk area. In c1870 in London he married Catholic, German-born governess, Anna Maria *née* von der Werth (1850-1929). Engaged by Adelaide solicitor Alexander George Downer in c1883, the Sparrows migrated to Adelaide on free passage in 1884

on the *Haverton*, and commenced work on Downer's estate at 'Monalta', Belair. In c1888 Horn apparently engaged Sparrow, who was then living at Devonshire Road in Aldgate, to lay out the garden and the Sparrows used the engagement as an opportunity to shift closer to the Stirling school to shorten the distance there for their only child, Louisa Clothida (1889-1964). It is believed that Anna Maria, who had a local reputation as 'a very caring and competent person,' was also engaged as the governess and house manager for 'Wairoa'.¹⁰



Anna Maria, Louisa Clotitha and George Sparrow c1890 (Way collection)

Between c1888 and 1896 Sparrow designed and laid out the historic garden, arboretum, and lower lawned terraces. His expertise in carpet bedding, and in drawing these designs, is recorded in family oral history. He also adopted an unusual stone pathway edge pattern of one vertical stone and three horizontal stones, with a vertical stone at pathway junctures. This same pattern is evident at the Sparrow's former residences in Pine Street and Devonshire Road. Carpet bedding was fashionable in England from the 1860s-mid1880s, and consisted of devising patterned beds, often in geometric, zoomorphic, or emblematic shapes, for the cultivation of creeping foliage. Sparrow adopted a semi-circular pattern focussed upon three feature circles that led down the gently sloping valley to the lawned terraces. Within the circles were positioned different designs of ornamental trees including a weeping Camperdown elm, beds of colourful annuals, English box, or rhododendrons. The lower circle announced an extensive rhododendron 'grove' along the valley floor edged by a lily-of-the-valley walk. Sparrow

also positioned the intricate patterned cast-iron steps, manufactured by G.E. Fulton & Co in Adelaide, between the driveway and the upper circle and planted variegated pittosporums on either side of the steps. It is likely that Sparrow had several junior gardeners during these years to assist in these extensive works.

Within the carpet beds a spectrum of northern hemisphere species were planted. A rich collection of rhododendrons, camellias, English box, Japanese maples, with foundation plantings of conifers, Norfolk Island pines, Bhutan cypress, beech, and an unusual collection of specimen conifers were cultivated. These species were most likely from three main sources given that the Horns did not travel overseas between 1888-1895, and that the significant nurseries - Fred Caley Smith's, Oscar Menzel's¹¹ and Sewell's¹² in Aldgate - were not established until c1901 and c1920 respectively.

The first source was from the family of John Bagot (1849-1910). Horn's business relationship with Bagot probably enabled Bagot's acquisition of land from Horn for 'Forest Lodge'. In May 1891 the Bagots set forth on an overseas plant finding mission, with the Bakewells of 'Korralla'. This led them into Japan, Canada, eastern USA, England, Germany and Italy, visiting nurseries and estates, obtaining catalogues, plant specimens and seeds, and forwarding them back to their German-born head gardener Ernst Wilhelm Menzel (1845-1917) who between 1890-1893 was laying out the carpet bedding design of 'Forest Lodge'.¹³ Menzel was 'one of the best known professional gardeners in this State ... [and] was recognised as a leading authority in South Australia on conifers.'¹⁴

Given the close planting profile of both properties, that they both possess an unusual carpet bedding landscape design pattern for the Adelaide Hills, that they were being laid out and planted at the same time, and that Anna Maria Sparrow and the Menzel family spoke German, it is highly probable that the two gardeners often exchanged plants, ideas, and designs 'across the fence'. By c1890 the Sparrows were residing in Pine Street and the Menzels were in the 'Forest Lodge' lodge on Pine Street. A cluster of other trades and horticultural artisans was also living in the Milford Estate including the Mosels, Roberts, Millers, Searles, and Redans. Given these circumstances, 'Forest Lodge', the Bagots and the Menzels would be the principal source for plant materials.

The second source would be from the gardens, and gardeners, of other significant properties in the Hills. The decade 1880-1890 was an estate building phase in the Adelaide Hills. While many Adelaide establishment families acquired land and commissioned architects to design summer residences, they also commenced laying out and planting extensive gardens, mostly in the Victorian style.¹⁵

Significant gardens were Sir Edward Stirling's 'St Vigeans', the Snow's 'St Wilfreds' (syn. 'Beechwood'), the Hawker's 'Pirralilla' and 'Wachenappee' (syn. 'Olivet House'), the Milne's 'Bythorne'

and 'Eurilla', the Scott's 'Boode House' (syn. 'Shurdington'), the Fisher's 'Pine Hill', the Gosse's 'Thorpe', the Spotswood's 'Spottiswoode', Sir Thomas Elder's 'The Pinnacles' (syn. 'Carminow'), the Bakewell's 'Korralla', and the Price's 'Tutuila' (syn. 'Kil Lel'). Mutual passion in establishing fashionable, botanically-rich, private gardens and arboreta matched with their often close business and political affairs meant that there were considerable plant exchanges, garden parties, and discussions about garden designing in the Hills. This was a successful phase in the development of South Australia, and one where many families indulged in establishing summer hill-stations parallel to similar fashions in Victoria at Mount Macedon and the Dandenongs, in New South Wales in the Blue Mountains and Southern Highlands, in Queensland at Toowoomba, and in Western Australia at Kalamunda.

The third source was the significant plant nurseries on the Adelaide plains. By the 1880s there was a thriving trade in plant propagation and cultivation in nurseries, gardening literature, and public meetings on gardening. Places such as Heyne's in Norwood, Kemp's at Unley, Edwin Smith's at Walkerville, Sewell's at Payneham, Newman's at Tea Tree Gully, Hackett's in Kent Town and 'Leawood Garden' were popular sources. They were aided by the writings of Henry Sewell, John Ednie Brown, Albert Molineux, George McEwin and Ernst Heyne in various manuals and articles in the *Observer* and *Garden & the Field*, together with popular meetings of the South Australian Gardeners' Society, the South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society, the Mount Lofty Gardeners' Society and branches of the Agricultural Bureaux. Horn's business and political associations would have exposed him to these activities and venues enabling plant acquisitions.

An early photo, c1895, of 'Wairoa' indicates that the garden had been extensively laid out, all the stone-edged paths constructed, and the beds fully planted with shrubs and trees.¹⁶ A William Tibbits (1837-1906) watercolour of *Wairoa* in 1897, reproduced opposite, confirms this work and the

growth age of the species.¹⁷ Sparrow would have also developed a kitchen garden, to either the south east of the residence, or to the south on the site of the present picking garden, to provide vegetables and fruit for the house especially during the summer months.

Within the garden, Sparrow had to deal with an unusual granite outcrop, and to incorporate it into the design. A grotto, and a series of rock pools, were the answer. This is the only deliberately carved, as distinct from constructed, grotto erected in South Australia. Horn would have had to bring in mining expertise to carve the grotto from the rock. Every other grotto in South Australia was constructed from stone, some by gardeners and some by expert garden structure artisan Charles Robinette (1841-1921), known for his work at 'Montefiore' and 'The Acacias'.¹⁸ Given that Robinette had left for Melbourne in mid 1883 it is not his work. Within the grotto and rockery Horn personally carved a series of heads and representations perhaps drawing inspiration from his classical readings. Oral tradition pur-

ports that several are Maori in inspiration but there is no evidence to support this assertion. Instead, one is of Horn, one features an at-scale alligator, and there are several images with wings, together with three to five other faces.

Sparrow also constructed several rusticated structures and arbours from willow and beech lengths. His expertise in this art enabled the erection of arbours that have since been lost on several paths, a timber umbrella on an iron post and frame in the rockery, several rusticated timber seats, and a large rusticated shade house structure with a willow thatched roof, in the middle of the garden. The last known rusticated seat by Sparrow existed in his family until the late 1940s. These types and structural forms were common in Victorian and Edwardian gardens in the 1880s-1920s.¹⁹

The shade house structure, in an elliptical shape, was positioned in an unusual spatial configuration of the garden design. In the larger ellipse, one looked out from the shade structure over five small garden plots that may relate to the Horn's five living chil-



W. Tibbits 1897 'Wairoa' watercolour (Marbury School collection)

dren at the time the garden was designed. Following his marriage to Nelly in 1879 the Horns had eight children including: Frank Lancelot (1882-1883), Penelope Avice (b.1883), Edith Dorothea Mary (b.1884), Kelham Kirk (b.1886), Trevor Langdale (b.1888), Marmaduke Langdale (b.1889), John Strelley (b.1894), and Spencer Bertram (b.1895). By the time John Strelley was born, apparently at 'Wairoa' on 6 February 1894, the garden had been laid out and the Horns had five living children. Given that there is an English tradition of planting trees upon the birth of children, or to celebrate children, as Walter Bagot did at 'Forest Lodge' with Copper Beeches, it is very likely that this unusual feature pertains to the Horn children as there is no numerical linkage to the Barr Smith children.

By late 1895 the Horns were in England. Horn, tiring of colonial pastures, purchased 'Wimbleton Park House' near London. In late 1895 the Horns obviously decided that they could retire to England and live off the profits of their assets, and placed 'Wairoa' and 'Holmwood' on the market. 'Wairoa' was privately acquired by Tom Elder and Mary (Molly) Isobel Barr Smith in March 1896 while Horn was in England. Given that 'Holmwood' was sold with contents it is likely that 'Wairoa' was sold privately to the Barr Smiths with contents as the Horns appeared to be establishing a totally new, English-influenced residence near London.²⁰

Nourishing the garden - 1896-1945

Upon the purchase of 'Wairoa', Tom and Molly Barr Smith walked into an already established property, a planted and laid out garden, several horse paddocks and a water reticulation system supported by two bores. This became their summer residence. They continued the engagement of George and Anna Maria Sparrow to maintain continuity, and probably other servants and junior gardeners.

One of the first actions by the Barr Smiths was to commission Victorian landscape painter and lithographer William Taylor Smith Tibbits (1837-1906)

to record the garden in *Wairoa* (1897). Tibbits was in Adelaide for part of 1897, possibly to visit a sick relative, and undertook several commissions to pay his expenses including the watercolours *Wotton Lea* (1897), and *Sunnyside* (1897). The Barr Smith commission resulted in a detailed watercolour, 'of unfading beauty, with correct perspective,' that profiled the extent and growth of the historic garden and arboretum, indicating the buildings constructed, and the open paddocks to the south and southeast of the residence.²¹

During the 1900s-1920s the Barr Smith children played in the garden. The Barr Smiths had six children: Joanna Lang (1887-1965), Christine Margaret (1890-1974), Robert (1894-1967), Mary (Mollie) Isobel (b.1898), Tom Elder (1904-1968), and Ursula (1907-1970). The children found the garden a delight and a mysterious source of play and whimsy. Mary (Mollie) Legoe recalled various aspects of this garden in her *A Family Affair*:

There was a small hillock beside the pond ... and down this we used to slide on our tea trays. There was also a hole in the rock at the top of the cave. We liked to let each other down into the cave on a rope. It was an exciting place for children to play and the Michael Hawkers from the hill across the valley, used to join us in these games ...

My brothers and I played "Hare and Hounds" round this large garden using all our plentiful supply of energy. Sparrow lived over the hill towards Stirling and on Saturday afternoons I used to enjoy going to see him and his wife play croquet with Michael and his wife, the coachman from the O'Halloran Giles house.²²

The garden was not just used by the Barr Smith and Hawker children but also by the children of the gardeners and staff associated with the property. Thus, the Sparrow grand-children played with the Kelly and Barr Smith children, often under governess supervision, and with other friends from Pine Street.²³ Fayette (*née* Matters) Gosse (b.1919), who married John Gosse in 1940, observes that 'Christine [Gosse] ... escaped from supervision one day for long enough to knock off most of the noses' from the sculptures.²⁴

Between 1903-04 the Barr Smiths undertook several strategic decisions that affect the property's landscape design today. Tom Barr Smith saw the need to resolve the sloping gravel driveway that would have been wet and slippery for horse and motor car, and set about the erection of a new gatehouse, gates and driveway. A new bitumen drive was positioned on a more gradual level and a single-storey, stone and brick, picturesque gatehouse was built with detailed, timber and cast-iron gates, supported by two convex stone walls with iron balustrading. Horses were used up until this time as Joanna 'used to go out calling in the Victoria with two horses and a coachman on the box.'²⁵

Mary (Molly) Isobel Barr Smith also formally commenced her love of the property by directing the establishment of the picking garden.

A large rectangular, slightly sloping garden was laid out between 1903-1910, with connections to the water system, and a new rockery was installed at its western and highest end. It appears, from photographic evidence, that it was planted in masses of belladonna lilies, Japanese windflowers, lily-of-the-valley, crinum, gladiolus, irises, lilies, lupins, daffodils, ginger lilies, English bluebells, and other bulbs, corms, and tuber annuals and perennials. This plant profile, and the concept of a picking garden, derives inspiration from the recommendations of English landscape writer Gertrude Jekyll. William (Bill) Kelly was engaged as a junior gardener during this period.

The circular rose garden, on the lower terrace level of the arboretum, was also established at this time. A rose garden was planted between the lawn tennis



Wairoa before the garden grew 1898 (Marbury School collection)



The top circle in the historic garden c1930 (Riley collection)

court and the bowling green, together with either a climbing rose or English Ivy arbour.²⁶

A feature of the lower lawn terraces before 1945 was topiary. Several pittosporum hedges were routinely cut to create 1.2-1.5m high 'walls' of foliage. Several English box were trimmed into circular swirling features at the corners of the bowling and croquet lawns, and into balls on the upper circle. Herb Scott recalls routinely cutting the hedges to a predetermined height set by Bill Kelly and Joanna Gosse but the rest of the topiary has since disappeared. He also recalls being taught lawn bowls by Tom Barr Smith which confirms his employment at 'Wairoa' in the late 1930s.²⁷

The employment of Kelly, as a junior, ultimately enabled his appointment as head gardener in 1913 upon Sparrow's sudden death from a 'burst ... blood vessel' while returning home.²⁸ William Kelly (1881-1954) reputedly had only one job and that was working at 'Wairoa'. The son of Edward (1860-1927) and Janet *née* Brown

(1861-1913) Kelly, he married Minnie Ethel *née* Coventry (1894-1970) in 1904, and raised three children, Harold William, Nelly Ethel (b.1914), and Elsie Lilian (b.1909). Harold maintained the family gardening interest and 'was a mad keen orchid grower'.²⁹

The Barr Smiths used 'Birksgate' at Glen Osmond as their plains and winter residence, and 'Wairoa' as their summer residence. Mary (Molly) Isobel Barr Smith, however, spent far more time at 'Wairoa' as the house and garden were her dominant interest. Each summer the servants and staff would pack and close 'Birksgate' and make the pilgrimage up into the Adelaide Hills in full entourage. During the rest of the year the vegetable and picking gardens at 'Wairoa' provided daily fresh vegetables and flowers for the 'Birksgate' rooms and kitchen.³⁰

Mary (Molly) Isobel Barr Smith took charge of the operations at 'Wairoa'. While the picking garden

was a favoured area, she re-established the vegetable garden and created an animal nursery. She would often collect eggs from the chook house, and take the children through a mass of chickens, ducks and geese - all squawking. Above the vegetable garden, and the picking garden, were the paddocks, where there were two or three ponies or horses, and two or three cows. The latter were occasionally used for milking.³¹ An unusual handcrafted copper rain gauge, manufactured by R & J Beck Ltd. of Coon Hill, London, was also positioned on a stone pedestal in the middle of the upper circle in c1900-1920.³²

During the 1930s the Barr Smiths commenced planting several pine plantations. A Monterey Pine plantation was established by Kelly on the western slope facing the historic garden, probably to provide shelter from the weather. Between the lawn tennis court and the Monterey Pine lined fence along Mount Barker Road a plantation of Oregon was planted, most likely to provide some degree of privacy and as a noise buffer from the exhausts of increasing motorised travellers along Mount Barker Road.³³

In June 1941 Mary (Molly) Isobel died, and was buried at the Mitcham Cemetery.³⁴ Upon Barr Smith's death in November 1941 the property was transferred to Joanna Gosse who had married James Gosse in 1908.

Given that World War Two was occurring the Gosses did not occupy the property but

volunteered the residence as an Army Brigade headquarters. 'Forest Lodge' was also used for a similar purpose during the War. Bill Kelly continued as head gardener, as Herb Scott was serving overseas in the army. Very little of the garden appears to have been changed during the war years.³⁵



*[Lady] and [Sir] Alexander Downer in the historic garden
c1947 (Downer Collection)*

Picking gardens of daffodils and lily-of-the-valley

When the Gosses moved into 'Wairoa' before the Christmas of 1945 most of their children had completed their education and had a family of their own. Fayette Gosse recalled, 'everything inside was as the Barr Smiths had left it, all in immaculate order. It had a smell of wood and books.'³⁶

The property, however, had been introduced to them in the 1930s through Joanna's marriage; it was the playground for her children even before she inherited 'Wairoa'. The Gosses had six children, five of whom survived. These included: Robert Christie (1909-1964), James Elder (1911-1973), Edmund Barr (b1915), John Grant (b1918), Joanna (1925-1925) and Mary Isobel (b1924). Of the children, Mary, who married Alexander Downer in 1947, spent the most time playing in the garden. Christmas dinner in 1945 at 'Wairoa' established a family tradition for many years, including the 'infamous rice pudding', holly from the garden strewn across the tables, 'the children rearing around the garden discussing and exhibiting their new toys,' and the turkey prepared by the kitchen staff. Dinner was often served on the bitumen driveway outside the living room.³⁷

Joanna Gosse loved the picking garden and spent endless days with secateurs in hand supervising Bill Kelly and Herb Scott in their endeavours. Many of the family photographs were taken in this area as distinct from other areas of the property. Within the picking garden hydrangeas, lily-of-the-valley and daffodils were especially cultivated. Most of the species that Mary (Molly) Isobel Barr Smith and Kelly had established, were also maintained. Hydrangeas often came from Kemp's Nursery at Aldgate during the 1940s-1960s upon the advice of Doug Roberts who was an expert in their propagation. Lily-of-the-valley was common in the house vases and often found its way into her children's and friends' houses. Daffodils were cut in 'buckets and buckets', '1000-1500' loads, and taken by Joanna and Scott, often daily during season, down to Adelaide for the Red Cross to sell. Bunches of

daffodils and hydrangeas were also cut and distributed elsewhere in Adelaide even at Joanna's hair salon. Joanna also continued the animal farm, often with forty to fifty fowls, and numerous turkeys and geese, contained within the 'sturdy fence'.³⁸

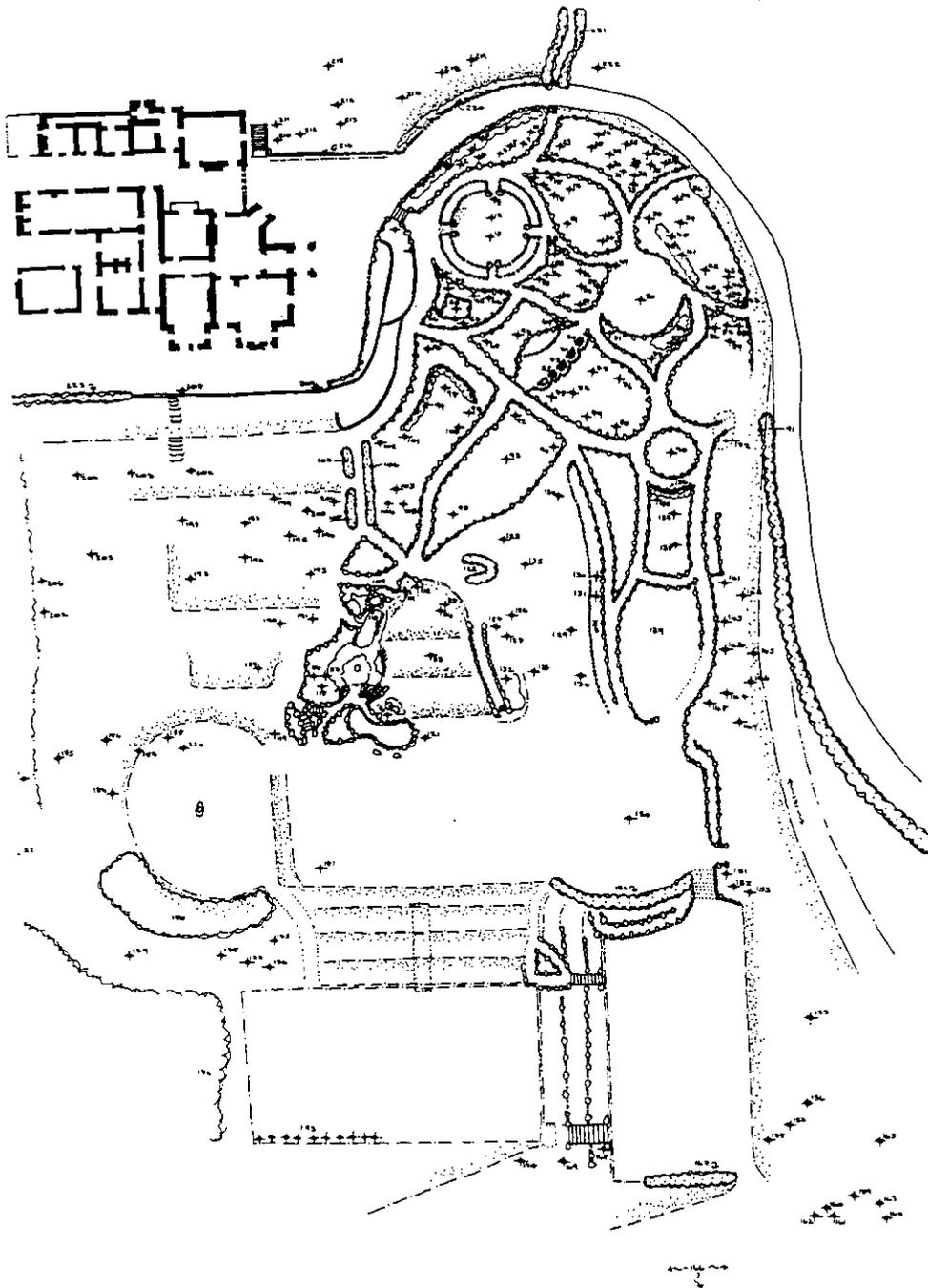
... set among splendid trees and a trailing, mysterious garden full of winding paths and steps and sudden green rooms of lawn enclosed with hedges. She [Joanna] kept hens and geese and a cow and loved to take care of the poultry and to get into the dairy and churn out butter and cream, to pick basketfuls of daffodils to give to visitors or sell for the Red Cross, to go out to the raspberry canes and fill buckets with the fruit, to gather up pine cones for the crackling fires.

... there was only birdsong and sighing trees. Mrs Gosse ... loved the house in the hills as she had never loved Park Terrace [their Greenhill Road residence].³⁹

Joanna Gosse also promoted gardening in the local community. She was a frequent visitor to many garden parties, and to the Kemp's Nursery at Aldgate to discuss and collect the latest fashions. She promoted the inaugural Aldgate Autumn Leaves Festival by crowning the first Miss Autumn Leaves. Herb Scott recalls that Joanna just fronted up with plants for him to plant but is unsure from where they came.⁴⁰

One of the losses during the Gosse phase was the removal of the deteriorating rusticated furniture. The arbours were removed, and the shade house shelter became the last evidence of Sparrow's work extant in the mid 1950s.⁴¹

In January 1946 Herb Scott became head gardener upon the retirement of Bill Kelly in December 1945. Apart from gardening, in his later years Scott found himself serving as chauffeur to Joanna Gosse.⁴² In 1954 Bill Kelly died in his sleep 'in his favourite chair' at his Mount Barker Road residence.⁴³ Upon Lady Joanna Gosse's death in 1965 the Gosse family decided that it was not feasible to keep the property in the family in either separate or joint ownership and placed it to sale.



Plan of the historic garden at 'Wairoa' 2000 (Jones collection)

Seeking an equilibrium and a future for the gardens

In October 1965 the property was acquired by the O'Neil family through Screenings Pty. Ltd., which had later associations with the Marbury School.⁴⁴ The rose 'maze' or circle was perhaps the only garden loss during this period.⁴⁵

Herb Scott recalls that little was changed in the gardens during this period. Rather, he was instructed to continue 'to carry out his chores'.⁴⁶

In March 1972 the property passed to Marbury School Incorporated who retain the present ownership.⁴⁷ Principal Margaret Langley (1920-1998) saw the property as a challenge to maintain but also an opportunity to create a larger school complex that drew its meaning from the natural environment. Part of this reflects the influence of her parents, John Samuel and Vera Langley, who were founding directors of the Rationalist Association of Australia, and her exposure to Elef Jorgensen and the Monsalvat community in Eltham near Melbourne. Langley actively sought to enable the 'on-going restoration of the ... 100-year-old garden', and this vision is still being pursued by the School today.⁴⁸

The gardens of 'Wairoa' represent a significant Victorian landscape in the Adelaide Hills. Uniquely, they have not been significantly changed since their original design, and the care of successive owners and gardeners has ensured that the property retains its integrity today.

Acknowledgments

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