

**INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF  
POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND OTHER MUSEUMS AND  
CULTURAL PROJECTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** North Parramatta Residents' Action Group

**Date Received:** 17 August 2020

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17<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Willow Grove History Report

North Parramatta Residents Action Group had to get some serious research done on Willow Grove since what was presented in the Parramatta Powerhouse EIS was inferior and incorrect in parts.

The eminent public historian Dr Terry Kass has researched the history of the site for NPRAG, see attached and bio below. He has uncovered Willow Grove's remarkable history of ownership by women, in the business of women's culture – millinery and drapery, and health and maternity services.

*Dr Terry Kass is one of Australia's leading public historians and an expert on the history of Parramatta. Over more than 30 years of practice as an independent public historian, Terry Kass has authored numerous historical reports on heritage sites, places and buildings. With Meredith Walker, he was the historical consultant for Parramatta Council's three volume 1993 Heritage Study. He is the co-author of Parramatta: A Past Revealed, with Carol Liston and John McClymont, published by Parramatta Council in 1996. Terry Kass is active in public history and academia as a lecturer and writer. He is a member of the Professional Historians Association (PHA), and an associate of the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University.*

Millions were spent on consultants in the EIS they couldn't even discover the basic facts about the date of Willow Grove and owner of the land who was Annie Gallagher nee Hanley. She purchased the land for Willow Grove **in her own right** and it was her money that financed the construction of Willow Grove from the proceeds of her drapery business.

Willow Grove was built in 1891, not the 1870s as stated in the EIS. From 1879 to 1953 the site was owned by a succession of entrepreneurial Parramatta business women in their own right. This is exceptionally rare.

In the wider context of Parramatta's heritage Willow Grove is part of an extraordinary sequence of women's heritage sites unmatched in Australia. These include Elizabeth Farm 1793, its near neighbour Hambledon Cottage 1824, (now the home of Parramatta and District Historical Society, the oldest local historical society in Australia founded in 1913, and not even identified, mentioned or consulted in the EIS). Hambledon was part of the original Elizabeth Farm estate and was built for Penelope Lucas the governess and friend of Elizabeth Macarthur. She lived there from 1827-1836.

Other women's sites of note:

- Experiment Farm, site of the home of Elizabeth Ruse who worked side by side with her husband James Ruse to produce the first wheat crop
- The Female Orphan School 1818
- The Female Factory begun in 1818, completed in 1821
- Old Government House, home to Elizabeth Macquarie
- The Dairy Cottage in Parramatta Park, home to the dairy maid Elizabeth Eccles from around 1813-35
- The Parramatta Girls Industrial School and more....

No other city in Australia has such an exceptional range of women's heritage places dating from the foundation of European settlement, spanning all classes and cultures and including some of the most significant heritage sites in Australia. Willow Grove's history of women in business, and nurses, matrons and midwives caring for mothers and babies, is an important part of this story. Parramatta is the centre of Australian women's heritage, the most neglected and unrecognised part of the national estate.

Women's stories are not even considered in heritage assessment criteria and identification. Sadly heritage practice is still framed around describing heritage buildings owned by men, designed by male architects.

Furthermore Willow Grove is rare survivor of a pattern of development along the Parramatta River of villas and estates set in park like grounds with gardens running down to the river. Willow Grove was known and named for its willows. Its garden and willow grove would have been part of the amenity the hospital offered to patients and women lying-in. Notwithstanding the subdivision for the David Jones carpark, the curtilage and landscape setting of Willow Grove is an integral part of its significance. That is why the building is where it is. The landscape setting is another aspect of the significance of Willow Grove that was never investigated in the EIS.

The whole idea of Infrastructure NSW moving Willow Grove is ludicrous. Moving heritage items is contrary to all the tenets of good heritage practice since the history and significance of the building is indivisible from the place and its setting. Moving buildings is a discredited 70s concept that is rejected by heritage practitioners and by the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter. The aim of conservation is to protect the significance of the place. The significance of Willow Grove is indivisible from the place. Moving the Willow Grove building would destroy its integrity and sense of place.

The relevant Burra Charter reference is Article 9:1 *The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the **sole** practical means of ensuring its survival.... Options that allow the retention at the place should always be fully investigated beforehand.*

This is not the case for Willow Grove since the government has **an alternate 26ha site that it owns in North Parramatta (Cumberland Hospital East Campus) and never considered for the Parramatta museum.** The location of the museum on the Phillip St site is discretionary. The museum could go elsewhere.

On behalf of NPRAG I would request that Terry Kass most recent and comprehensive history of Willow Gove be accepted as a supplementary paper in the Government's Upper House Inquiry into management of the Powerhouse Museum and other museums and cultural projects in NSW.

Kind Regards

**Suzette Meade**  
**Former Past President**  
**Spokesperson NPRAG**

# **History of Willow Grove 34 Phillip Street, Parramatta**

Dr Terry Kass, B A (Hons), M A (Hons), Ph.D  
Historian & Heritage Consultant

10 August 2020

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**Abbreviations**

Bk	Book
CT	Certificate of Title
CRS	Commonwealth Record Series, NAA
LRS	Land Registry Services, NSW
ML	Mitchell Library
NAA	National Archives of Australia
No	Number
NRS	NSW Record Series (SANSW)
<i>NSWGG</i>	<i>NSW Government Gazette</i>
OSD	Old System Deed, LRS
RPA	Real Property Application
SANSW	State Archives, New South Wales
<i>SMH</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>

## Introduction

This report focuses on the history of the property known as Willow Grove at 34 Phillip Street Parramatta. It briefly outlines the history of the site before the construction of Willow Grove but mainly concentrates on that building. The site is shown on the plan below. Its current cadastral identifier is 2/1247122, which incorporates a much larger site. Its previous cadastral identifier was 1/569139. Its location is shown on the plan below.

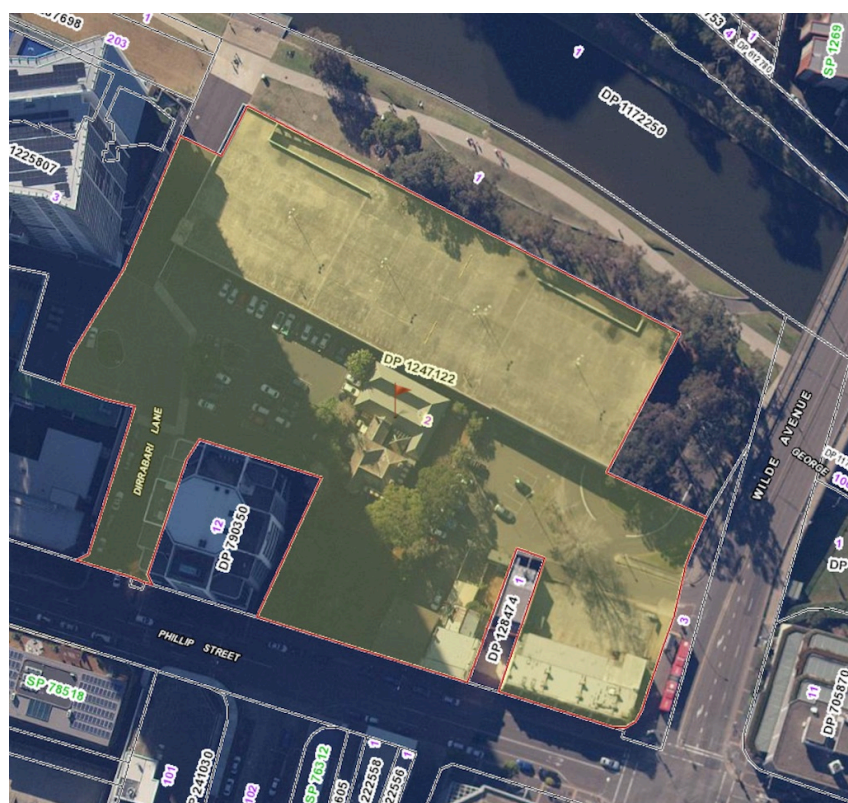


Figure 1. Source: Willow Grove is shown under the red flag. Source: SIX maps

## Early History of the Site

Willow Grove is erected upon land that was originally granted as two allotments to Benjamin Lee as Allotments 41 and 43 Section 25, Parramatta as well as a very small part of William Peisley's Allotment 20. Lee occupied this land until he died on 13 April 1879. After his death, the land was subdivided into allotments and put up for auction.

The sale of the site occupied by Willow Grove was completed on 18 November 1879 when Thomas Henry Ellis, a commission agent of Parramatta paid £635 for 3 roods 39 perches, which was part of Allotments 41 and 43 of Section 25

originally granted to Benjamin Lee by the Crown.<sup>1</sup> Ellis settled the property upon his wife, Rebecca, on 6 December 1879.<sup>2</sup> Ellis was living at this address by 1884, which was the earliest year in which *Sands Directory* began to cover Parramatta. Fuller's 1885 yearbook, listed Thomas Ellis, auctioneer, living on the north side of Phillip Street.<sup>3</sup> The 1887 edition of Fuller's yearbook, listed Mrs Phillips, on the north side of Phillip Street in the same position as Ellis in 1885.<sup>4</sup>

On 2 September 1887, Rebecca Ellis took out a mortgage for £250 on the site to Robert Henderson, of Parramatta, freeholder.<sup>5</sup> She took out a further mortgage for £250 on 3 May 1889.<sup>6</sup> When she died on 23 September 1890, the loan was still outstanding. Her husband, Thomas, paid it off on 15 November 1890.<sup>7</sup>

Thomas Henry Ellis, a commission agent of Parramatta shortly afterwards sold the land for £1,000 to Annie Josephine Gallagher, wife of Thomas Gallagher, draper of Parramatta and a trustee William Proctor, of Pennant Hills, fruit grower on 17 November 1890. The property was paid for by money belonging to Annie's estate separate from her husband. It measured 3 roods 39 perches being lot 10 on the subdivision of Benjamin Lee's land. No copy of the plan of Lee's subdivision appears to have survived.

### Purchase by Annie Josephine Gallagher

Annie Josephine Hanly/Hanley was born in County Clare, Ireland and appears to have arrived in the colony about 1864 aged 6.<sup>8</sup> Her father was John Hanly. A man with the same name arrived on the *Morning Star* on 3 September 1864, but he was a single man who came from Co Tipperary so it was probably not her father.<sup>9</sup>

Annie's father, John Hanly, a gaol warder living at Windsor Street, Paddington, was dying in April 1883. At 2.20 a.m. on 7 April 1883, John Hanly scrawled a short will leaving 'whatever goods or money I now possess' to 'my daughter Annie'. He died later that day. On 11 July 1883, whilst living at Watkins Street, Newtown, Annie Hanly, spinster applied for probate of her father's will. It was duly granted to her on 31 October 1883 with her as sole executor and legatee. John's goods were sworn at £230.<sup>10</sup> His only asset was wages owed by the government plus another debt of £20.<sup>11</sup> By 6 August 1883, Annie was living at Parramatta.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OSD, No 679 Bk 196

<sup>2</sup> OSD, No 342 Bk 197

<sup>3</sup> C E Fuller, *Central Cumberland Directory*, 1885, Parramatta, p 174

<sup>4</sup> C E Fuller, *Central Cumberland Directory*, 1887, p 199

<sup>5</sup> OSD, No 391 Bk 370

<sup>6</sup> OSD, No 640 Bk 412

<sup>7</sup> OSD, No 284 Bk 453

<sup>8</sup> BDM 1924/55, Transcript by Laurie Turtle

<sup>9</sup> Immigrant Lists, 1864, SANSW 4/4798, *Morning Star*

<sup>10</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, John Hanly, Series 3 No 9002, SANSW 17/2033

<sup>11</sup> NRS 13340, Stamp Duties Office, Deceased Estate File, Z 2738, SANSW 20/6987

<sup>12</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, John Hanly, Series 3 No 9002, SANSW 17/2033

On 21 July 1883, Annie Hanly [sic] advertised she would be opening her shop 'The Sydney Gem' in Church Street, Parramatta, three doors down from George Street on 21 July 1883, with millinery direct from London and Paris. She stated that she imported millinery and drapery direct from the manufacturers selling it cheaper than in Sydney.<sup>1</sup> She was 24 years old when she set up this business.

**THE SYDNEY GEM.**

**A. J. Hanly,**

**CASH MILLINERY AND DRAPERY**  
**SHOP,**

**CHURCH-STREET, PARRAMATTA,**  
**Three Doors from George-street,**

**WILL BE OPENED ON SATURDAY,**  
**JULY 21st, 1883.**

**MILLINERY** direct from London and Paris  
at Moderate Prices.

Costumes, Stays, Underclothing, Mantles,  
Parachutes, Flowers, Feathers, Dress Materials,  
Silks, Satins, Prints, Shootings, Calicoes,  
Towels, Flannels, Quilts, Dress Linings, Table-  
cloths, Haberdashery, Hosiery, Gloves, Rib-  
bons, Ruffings, Laces, etc., etc., all new,  
fresh and choice. Inspection invited.

Please Note: The Sydney Gem, Church-street,  
Parramatta,  
(3 doors from George-street).

All Goods marked in Plain Figures.  
No old Stock.

Wedding and Mourning Orders receive special  
attention.

**A. J. HANLY,**  
**MILLINER AND IMPORTER OF**  
**DRAPERY,**  
Buys her Goods direct from the Manufacturer,  
and sells them Cheaper than can be  
bought in Sydney.

Please Note: The Sydney Gem, Church-street,  
Parramatta,  
(3 doors from George-street).

All Goods marked in Plain Figures.  
All new Stock.

**A. J. HANLY,**  
**MILLINER AND IMPORTER.**

The Sydney Gem will be opened  
**ON SATURDAY, JULY 21st, 1883.**

Figure 2 Annie Hanly's announcement she was commencing a draper's business in Parramatta.  
Source: *Cumberland Mercury*, 21 July 1883, p 5

<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 21 July 1883, p 5

Regular advertisements for her shop appeared in the Parramatta press from then onwards. In December 1883, she complained to Parramatta Council that she had been billed for water rates owed by a previous tenant of the premises she occupied. Council was unable to assist and advised she should take the matter up in the Small Debts Court.<sup>1</sup> In April 1884, the press reported the theft of a towel that had been hung to dry by her maid of all work, Louisa Bellamy, in the gateway between Mrs Gregg's and Miss Hanley's premises. The culprit George Reid, was sentenced to one month of hard labour.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Gallagher, draper of Parramatta, aged 25 married Annie Hanly, draper of Parramatta, at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church on 16 April 1884.<sup>3</sup> The births of their children Leslie P Gallagher, 1888 and Mildred M, 1890, were both registered in Parramatta.

Even after her marriage to Thomas Gallagher, Annie's business continued to be advertised as 'The Sydney Gem' conducted by A J Hanley.<sup>4</sup> It is notable that even though there were a significant number of advertisements for a draper's business conducted by Annie Hanly/Hanley in the Parramatta press, there had been no advertisements for a draper's business conducted by Thomas Gallagher from 1880 until 1884. There is strong evidence that the business was established and conducted by Annie Hanly/Hanley. Thomas Gallagher appears to have 'married into' the business rather than establishing it himself.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 22 Dec 1883, p 1

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 9 April 1884, p 2

<sup>3</sup> BDM 4465/1884, Transcript by Laurie Turtle

<sup>4</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 29 Nov 1884, p 3

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**THE SYDNEY GEM.**  
**A. J. Hanley,**  
**CHURCH-STREET,**  
**3 DOORS FROM GEORGE-STREET,**  
**PARRAMATTA.**  
**MILLINERY. MILLINERY.**  
**MILLINERY.**  
 We are now showing our  
**SPRING AND SUMMER**  
**MILLINERY,**  
 The grandest Assortment ever before  
 shown in Parramatta. All the newest  
 French and English Goods to hand. We  
 have all the Fashionable Shapes, includ-  
 ing Mary Anderson, Warwick, Orleans,  
 Juliet, Gidcondra, Australian, Princess of  
 Wales, Eastbourne, and hundreds of  
 others. Our Millinery this season is un-  
 equalled for beauty and style. All the  
 most Fashionable Trimmings in stock.  
 Millinery sent to all parts of the country.  
 Wedding and Mourning Orders carefully  
 attended to. If any lady in the country  
 wants a stylish Summer Hat or Bonnet  
 please write or call at  
**A. J. HANLEY'S,**  
 Church-street, Parramatta,  
 and you can have hundreds of different  
 Styles and Fashions to select from.  
**GIRLS' SAILORES,**  
 We are making a Grand Display of all the  
 new Leghorn and other different shapes.  
**BOYS' SAILORS,**  
 In Great Variety. Every size in stock.  
 Beautiful Goods. Boys' Sailors, 8jd, 1s  
 2jd, 1s 6jd, 1s 11jd, 2s 6d, 2s 11d, up to  
 12s 6d. We pay particular attention to  
 this Department, and we can safely say  
 that we turn out Millinery equal, if not  
 better, than any Sydney house.  
**L A C E S .**  
 We have all the New and Fashionable  
 makes in Laces, including Oriental, Chan-  
 tilly, Spanish, Guipure, Bretonne, Edle-  
 weiss, New Drab, Fawn, and Mushroom.  
**DRESS MATERIALS. DRESS**  
**MATERIALS.**  
 The New Shot Dress Material with Broche  
 and Silk to match. Everything that's  
 new in Dress Materials can be had at the  
**GEM.** 50 Pieces of Drab, Fawn, Grey,  
 and Mushroom Dress Goods fit for any  
 lady to wear, 6jd per yard. 40 pieces of  
 Broche Dress Goods, Summer Textures,  
 3jd per yard. 20 Pieces of the new  
 Check, substitute for Silk, 10jd per yard.  
 Hoyle's Washing Prints, 3jd, 4jd, 6jd,  
 8jd per yard. French Satens, in all the  
 most elaborate designs. Ask for our  
 Zephyr Checks at 8jd per yard.  
 800 Pairs of Ladies' White Corsets, 2s 6d,  
 worth 1s 11d. 700 Pairs of Scarlet Cor-  
 sets, 3s 6d, worth 5s 11d.  
 Gloves, Gloves, Gloves. Every description  
 of Glove imaginable.  
 We keep on the premises a most ex-  
 perience Dressmaker. Fit and style  
 guaranteed. If any lady wants a thorough  
 fitting garment please call at the **GEM,**  
**A. J. HANLEY'S,**  
 Church-street,  
 Where you can have the newest goods  
 and best fit in Parramatta.  
**THE GEM.**  
**A. J. HANLEY.**  
**CHURCH STREET,**  
**3 doors from**  
**GEORGE STREET,**  
**PARRAMATTA.**  
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Figure 3 Annie Hanly continued to advertise her draper's business in her maiden name. Source: *Cumberland Mercury*, 29 Nov 1884, p 3

In March 1885, an advertisement appeared announcing that F T Gallagher (late A J Hanley), Sydney Gem, had moved into the large shop occupied by Mrs Gregg. It would be opened on 1 April 1885, with the largest stock of dress goods,

broaches, silks, satins, velvets, dolmans, mantles, ladies and children's Ulsters, ladies underclothing, baby linen, corsets, hosiery, gloves, flowers, feathers, laces ever before shown in Parramatta.<sup>1</sup>

**Notice of Removal.**

Owing to the great increase of business that  
last twelve months,

**F. T. GALLAGHER,**  
(Late A. J. Hanley),  
SYDNEY GEM, CHURCH-STREET,  
PARRAMATTA.

Having taken the large shop lately occupied by  
Mrs. Gregg, Church-street.

This Large and Commodious Shop  
**WILL BE OPENED**  
On or about the 1st of APRIL, 1885,  
with the Largest Stock of

Dress Goods, Broches, Silks, Satins, Velvets,  
Dolmans, Mantles, Ladies' and Children's  
Ulsters, Ladies' Underclothing, Baby  
Linen, Corsets, Hosiery, Gloves,  
Flowers, Feathers, Laces,  
etc., etc.

Ever before shown in Parramatta.

**T. F. Gallagher**

Wishes to draw the particular attention of  
his lady customers to the fact that he does not  
keep expensive out-fitting of any kind; will make  
his new premises a comfortable ladies shop.

A few of the Prices will suffice to prove that  
ladies can get as well served as

**T. Gallagher's**  
SYDNEY GEM, CHURCH STREET,  
as at any house in Sydney.

6 cases of Winter Dress Goods, 54; 40 Pieces  
of Cashmere Cloth, 54; 20 Pieces of Felt  
this a special cloth, 10s 6d  
A full range of colours in Serge, 54  
20 pieces of Russian Cloth, 1s 3d; Ladies' Cloth,  
1s 3d; Cassimeres, 1s 3d  
40 pieces double-width Cassimeres, 1s 3d; Felt  
Cassimeres, all wool, fast dye, 2s 6d and 3s  
11d; Blank Cassimeres, 1s 3d, 1s 11d, 2s  
6d, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, 5s 11d  
Nun's Veiling, 1s 3d, every shade in stock  
Ladies' Dolmans and Mantles, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s,  
and 8s  
Ladies' Ulsters, the largest stock in Parramatta,  
2s 11d, 3s 6d, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, 6s 6d, 7s 6d,  
8s 6d, 9s 6d, 10s 6d  
Children's Ulsters, 2s 11d, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, 5s  
11d, 6s 11d, 7s 11d, 8s 11d, 9s 11d, 10s 11d

**Millinery.**

Our MILLINERY this winter is unique. Every  
description of French and English  
MILLINERY.

Customers know full well, without further com-  
ment, the class of MILLINERY we keep.

All the newest Shades in  
Feathers, Egrets, Birds, Wings, Chamille Tufts,  
Chamille Sprays, Chamille Girdles.

Children's 'Sailors' and Grassy Bonnets,  
a grand assortment.

10 Dozen Ladies' Umbrellas, 1s 11d; 10 Dozen  
Double Silk, 2s 11d, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, 5s 11d.

**Dressmaking.**

Our new premises will be better adapted for  
the Dressmaking.

We keep the best and most stylish dressmaker  
in Parramatta. We have a lady of the very  
highest London and Sydney reputa-  
tion, who has lived 12 years at  
Farrer and Co.'s.

Fit and Style Guaranteed.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dresses.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dresses.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dressmaking.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dressmaking.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dressmaking.

The GEM for the most Stylish Dressmaking.

**T. F. Gallagher's**  
Motto,  
"Small Profits, Quick Returns."  
"Small Profits, Quick Returns."  
The GEM for Stylish Millinery.  
The GEM for Stylish Millinery.  
T. F. GALLAGHER,  
SYDNEY GEM,  
CHURCH-STREET, PARRAMATTA.

Figure 4 Annie later altered her business to that of her married name. Source: *Cumberland Mercury*, 25 March 1885, p 3

<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 25 March 1885, p 3

The business prospered becoming ever grander. In 1887, the couple advertised a 'Great Fair' of goods on 8 October 1887 at Gallagher and Hanly's Arcade, Church Street Parramatta.<sup>1</sup>

# The Cumberland Mercury

## AND RURAL GAZETTE.

449. PARRAMATTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1887.

### HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE FAIR. COME TO THE FAIR.

The First Great Fair ever held in Parramatta, will be opened at  
**GALLAGHER AND HANLY'S ARCADE,**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER THE 8th.**

This of all other days will never be forgotten in Parramatta. The First Fair, the Grandest Fair, the Cheapest Fair, the most Attractive Fair, the most Extensive Fair that was ever held in Parramatta will take place on NEXT SATURDAY, 8th of OCTOBER, at the ARCADE. Men, Women, and Children are welcome to come and see the Greatest Attraction ever seen in Parramatta. We are quite certain that there will be no getting within five hundred yards of the ARCADE. This First Fair at the ARCADE will be the Grandest, most Attractive, Cheapest, most Fetching, in fact, the Biggest Affair ever held in the Historic Town of Parramatta. We invite every Man, Woman, and Child in the County Cumberland to see the sights that will be at the

### FIRST FAIR EVER HELD IN THE ARCADE.

The people must thoroughly make up their minds to suffer a little inconvenience in passing down Church-street, as we are quite certain that Church-street, at the ARCADE, will be totally blocked with human beings. The ARCADE will be closed for two days, Thursday and Friday, the 6th and 7th of October, to mark off £30,000 worth of DRAPERY, MILLINERY, DRESS GOODS, ROBES, and thousands of other classes of Goods indented for twelve months ago. We hardly know what is in the enormous quantity sent out, we had the time fitted so that the goods should land the week after the advelrum duty should be abolished, consequently we save 7 per cent. The ARCADE watches all these things so that we can sell goods cheap. We will sell the entire parcel of £30,000 at the risk of the Manufacturers who sent the goods out. We will give the people of Parramatta such Bargains at this FAIR as was never heard of, we ask the entire population of Parramatta and Districts not to purchase any more Drapery until the FAIR is opened, and of all the surprise affairs ever heard of in Parramatta,

### THE FAIR AT GALLAGHER & HANLY'S ARCADE, WILL BE THE GRANDEST.

We will leave the public to judge, and we are quite certain the verdict will be pronounced by one and all that the FAIR at GALLAGHER and HANLEY'S ARCADE will surpass anything of its kind ever attempted in New South Wales.  
 COME TO THE FAIR! COME TO THE FAIR! COME TO THE FAIR! HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE FAIR? HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE FAIR?  
 We don't consider ourselves PROPHETS, but we will say this much—That there never was so MANY PEOPLE at the ARCADE BEFORE as there will be on

### NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 1887

TO SEE THE FAIR OPENED. One and all are welcome! WELCOME!! WELCOME!!! to the GRAND FAIR at  
**GALLAGHER & HANLY'S ARCADE,**  
**CHURCH STREET, PARRAMATTA.**

**Figure 5 Gallagher and Hanly's Arcade.** Source: *Cumberland Mercury*, 8 Oct 1887, p. 1

Historian Catherine Bishop has recently highlighted how women were often key entrepreneurs in many commercial businesses. Even though her published work is mainly focussed on mid-nineteenth century Sydney, its analyses can be equally applied to late nineteenth century Parramatta. Millinery and dressmaking businesses were the most common commercial enterprises conducted by nineteenth century women.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the way women were embedded in textile and clothing as needlewomen, vendors of clothing and fabrics as well as significant consumers, the retail clothing trades could not have prospered without the depth of experience of women involved in those retail outlets. Due to the way in which men often headed businesses as the 'owners', even when their wives were those with the expertise, women's commercial role has been submerged. The renowned firm of Anthony Hordern grew out of the expertise of Ann Hordern, wife of the founder.

<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 8 Oct 1887, p 1

<sup>2</sup> C Bishop, *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney, NewSouth, Sydney*, 2015, p 37

The firm of Farmers ostensibly commenced by Joseph Farmer relied heavily on his wife Caroline.<sup>1</sup> They were some of the women that Bishop labelled 'capable businesswomen with marketable skills'.<sup>2</sup>

Drapery, millinery, linen, fabrics, dresses and personal adornments including flowers, feathers, lace and corsetry were integral to women's lives. Women, far more than men, knew what women wanted, could understand the preferences of female customers and knew how to appeal to their particular wants and desires. Though the male 'proprietor' may have strutted the floor, been the ostensible figurehead and even 'owner' of the business and may have moved in masculine circles such as local clubs, the local council and even parliament, the real running of the business fell to 'capable businesswomen with marketable skills', who are often the wives of the so-called proprietor. Annie Josephine Hanly/Hanley was already one of those 'capable businesswomen' before she married Thomas Gallagher. It was her money and not that of Thomas that purchased the land and probably financed the construction of the house that was soon named Willow Grove.

Catherine Bishop concluded her pioneering analysis writing,

Throughout the nineteenth century, the streets of Sydney bustled with women literally going about their business - not just keeping house and doing the marketing, but running stalls and shops, pubs and schools - and sometimes even scams. ... And their earnings were more than just pin money. Many supported themselves and their families, sometimes working with their husbands but often working alone, all in apparent defiance of the Victorian ideology of feminine domesticity.<sup>3</sup>

The *Married Women's Property Act 1879* (42 Vic No 11) had been a significant step forward enabling women to protect their property and earnings from their husband. Previously, unless there was a specific legal deed vesting the property of a female in the hands of a trustee to be used separately from her husband, all the real estate and earnings of a woman became the property of their husband to do with as he wished after marriage. The significance of the Act was first highlighted by John Mackinolty in 1979.<sup>4</sup> The importance of this law in protecting women from drunken and spendthrift husbands has been highlighted by historians ever since. The Act specifically states,

The wages and earnings of a married woman acquired or gained by her after the passing of this Act in any employment occupation or trade in which she is engaged or which she carries on separately from

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<sup>1</sup> C Bishop, *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*, NewSouth, Sydney, 2015, pp 42-6

<sup>2</sup> C Bishop, *Minding Her Own Business*, p 50

<sup>3</sup> C Bishop, *Minding Her Own Business*, p 256

<sup>4</sup> J Mackinolty, 'The Married Women's Property Acts' in *In Pursuit of Justice: Australian Women and the Law, 1788-1979*, edited by Judy Mackinolty and Heather Radi, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1979

her husband or after desertion by him and also any money or property so acquired by her through the exercise of any literary artistic or scientific skill and all investments of such wages earnings money or property (and for the purposes of this Act the term "investments" includes conversion into real estate or reconversion thereof into personalty) shall be deemed and taken to be property held and settled to her separate use independent of any husband to whom she may be married and her receipts alone shall be a good discharge for such wages earnings money and property.<sup>1</sup>

On 3 December 1890, a call for tenders was issued in the Parramatta press by architect S M Green of 14 & 15 Melbourne Chambers, Pitt St, Sydney for the 'Erection of a cottage for F T GALLAGHER, Esq, in Phillip-street, Parramatta'. The works involved included,

1. Excavation, drainage, masonry, and brickwork.
2. Carpentry, joinery, and finishing trades.
3. The whole in one sum.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 6 Architect S M Green's call for tenders to build Willow Grove. Source: *Cumberland Mercury*, 3 Dec 1890, p 3

The resulting building was Willow Grove.

<sup>1</sup> *Married Women's Property Act 1879* (42 Vic No 11), Clause 2

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 3 Dec 1890, p 3

## Sydney Moore Green

The architect was Sydney M Green. His obituary claimed that he had been born in Parramatta but that was an incorrect reading of his baptism. He was born on 15 March 1846, to publican Richard R Green and his wife Sarah, at Parramatta Street, Sydney, which was a common name for the part of Parramatta Road at Broadway.<sup>1</sup> Green was a partner in Rowe and Green for many years later practising on his own account in Hunter Street, Sydney. The Mitchell Library holds an apprenticeship contract between Thomas Rowe and Sydney Moore Green with Joseph Kethel.<sup>2</sup> Green had worked for Rowe from about 1864 onwards. He then worked as chief and managing draughtsman for Rowe for many years.<sup>3</sup>

On 19 June 1869, Sydney Green married Amelia Neate, daughter of builder Alfred Neate of Forest Lodge, Glebe, at St Barnabas Church.<sup>4</sup> On 21 May 1875, Green was appointed as trustee of land that Thomas Rowe purchased in Manly for his wife Charlotte Jane.<sup>5</sup> At that time, Sydney Moore Green was an employee of Thomas Rowe and one who was entrusted with significant responsibilities.<sup>6</sup>

On 15 February 1884, Thomas Rowe admitted Sydney Moore Green as a partner in his architectural practice at Vickery's Chambers, Pitt Street, which then became known as Rowe and Green.<sup>7</sup> Green worked on a number of significant architectural projects in Sydney in partnership with Thomas Rowe. Green designed the YMCA building, the original part of Sydney Hospital, the Synagogue, Vickery's Chambers, Hoffnung's Buildings and an arcade that ran from George to Pitt Streets.<sup>8</sup> Those buildings were products of his partnership with Thomas Rowe.<sup>9</sup> He was an early member of the Institute of Architects. On 27 October 1885, he gave a paper to the Institute on 'The Queen Anne's Style [of Architecture] – What is it?'<sup>10</sup> In 1886, he presented a paper on 'The Architecture of Japan'.<sup>11</sup>

The partnership with Rowe was mutually dissolved on 8 February 1890. All money due to the firm would be paid to Thomas Rowe and he was also responsible for all debts.<sup>12</sup> Green set up his own firm at 14-15 Melbourne Chambers, Pitt Street.<sup>13</sup> Green continued working as an architect for many years. According to his obituary, he later became Assistant Government Architect being

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<sup>1</sup> BDM, Baptisms, Ph St Lawrence, Sydney, Volume 31A, No 418

<sup>2</sup> Articles of indenture between Thomas Rowe and Sydney Moore Green, architects and Joseph Kethel, 1 May 1887, ML DOC 2176

<sup>3</sup> *SMH*, 20 Feb 1890, p 1

<sup>4</sup> *SMH*, 10 July 1869, p 1

<sup>5</sup> OSD, No 433 Bk 150

<sup>6</sup> *SMH*, 20 Feb 1890, p 1

<sup>7</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 18 Feb 1884, p 2

<sup>8</sup> *SMH*, 26 Nov 1912, p 10

<sup>9</sup> J M Freeland, 'Thomas Rowe (1829-1899)', *ADB*, volume 6, pp 68-9

<sup>10</sup> *SMH*, 6 Nov 1885, p 4

<sup>11</sup> *SMH*, 30 June 1886, p 6

<sup>12</sup> *SMH*, 10 Feb 1890, p 3

<sup>13</sup> *SMH*, 20 Feb 1890, p 1

appointed in 1907.<sup>1</sup> However, he was not listed in the official Public Service Lists as an employee so the brief obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* appears to have been incorrect. Green died at his home 'Sunnyside', 66 Waters Road, Neutral Bay aged 67 on the 23 November 1912. He was buried at Gore Hill Cemetery.<sup>2</sup> A Google search located what is claimed to be an image of Sydney Moore Green at 'Genealogy'.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 7 Sydney Moore Green (1845-1812). Source: 'Genealogy', Accessed 20 Jan 2020

## Annie Josephine Gallagher and Willow Grove

The land on which Willow Grove has built was purchased by Annie Gallagher with her own funds separate from her husband. The money that financed the construction of Willow Grove would have come from the profits of the drapery business, which prospered largely due to Annie's expertise.

Annie Josephine Gallagher, wife of Thomas Gallagher, Parramatta, draper, submitted a Real Property Application to convert part of allotments 41 and 43 of Section 25, Parramatta granted to Benjamin Lee to Torrens Title on 27 January 1891. She sought the title with the 'power of appointment' 'notwithstanding coverture at any time and subject to such appointment to my separate use free from the debts control interference and engagements of any husband'.<sup>4</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> *SMH*, 26 Nov 1912, p 10

<sup>2</sup> *SMH*, 25 Nov 1912, p 7-8

<sup>3</sup> Accessed 20 Jan 2020

<sup>4</sup> NRS 13012, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application, RPA 8321, SANSW 6/10018

'power of appointment' was a general legal power to dispose of property for the benefit of one's self or for others. The *Married Women's Property Act 1879* (42 Vic No 11) had created the right for women to dispose of property as they wished.<sup>1</sup> By using this particular phrase, Annie ensured that she would be entered on the Certificate of Title as the registered proprietor and duly alerting all others that only she had the right to mortgage or sell the property known as 'Willow Grove'.

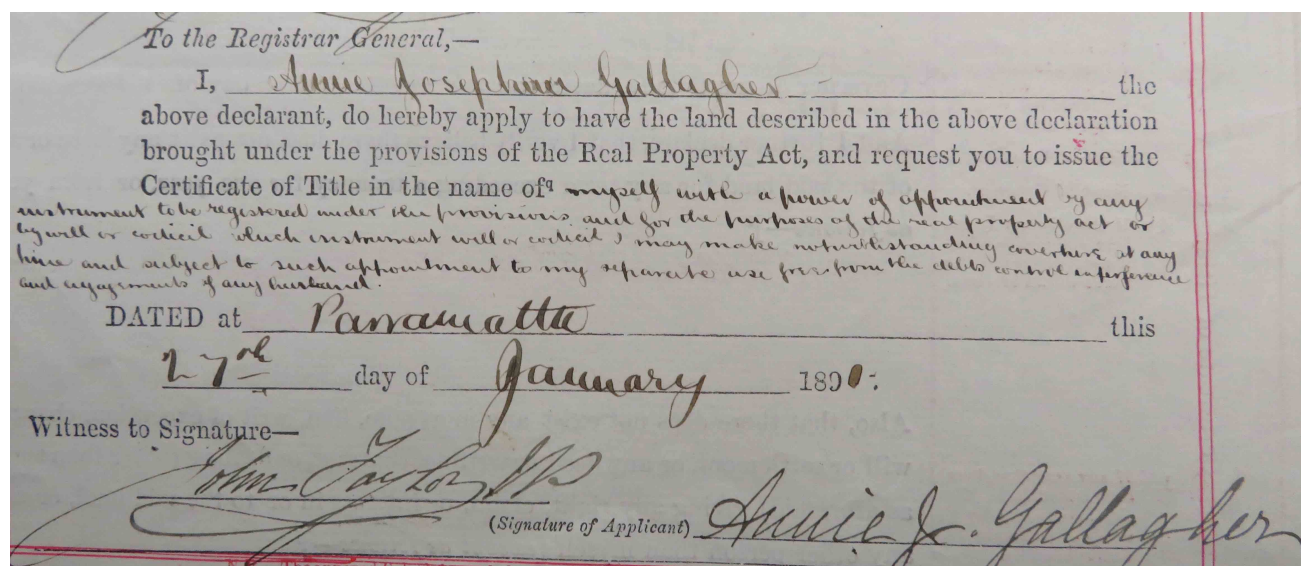
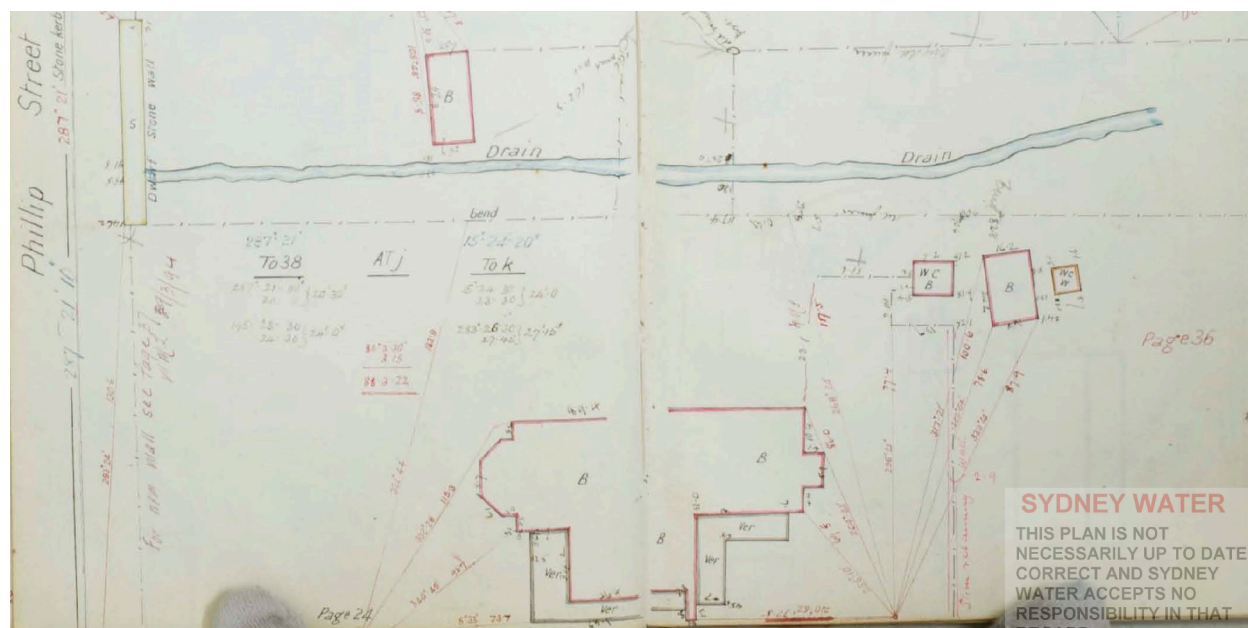


Figure 8 Annie Gallagher's application for a title with 'power of appointment' separate from her husband. Source: NRS 13012, Land Titles Office, Real Property Application, RPA 8321, SANSW 6/10018

A survey by Licensed Surveyor William A Thomas in preparation for a Detail Survey of Parramatta as part of the process of laying sewerage services was completed in October 1891. It showed Willow Grove and its outbuildings.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> P Butt, *Introduction of Land Law*, Law Book Company, Sydney, 1980, pp 142-3; J Baalman and T le M Wells, *The Practice of the Land Titles Office (New South Wales)*, Law Book Company of Australasia, Sydney, 1952, p 330

<sup>2</sup> PWD Fieldbook 2036, Sydney Water



**Figure 9 LS W A Thomas fieldbook showing 'Willow Grove' and outbuildings in October 1891.**

Source: PWD Fieldbook 2036, Sydney Water

Thomas Gallagher only resided in Willow Grove for a short time. On 3 November 1891, alderman Thomas Francis Gallagher, draper of Parramatta died at his residence in Phillip Street from syncope, broncho pneumonia after a period of 3 weeks of illness aged 35. He had arrived in the colony 10 years earlier. He was born at Ballymote, Ireland to Patrick Gallagher farmer. He was aged 27 when he married Annie Hanley.<sup>1</sup> His wife Annie Gallagher was very ill. Nevertheless, prior to his death, the doctors had warned her that her husband's death was imminent. He was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Rookwood.<sup>2</sup>

Nurse Swann, who had been caring for Mr and Mrs Gallagher, caught the same disease that they suffered from and which killed Thomas Gallagher.<sup>3</sup> She was more correctly known as Maria Swan, and also died at 'the residence of Mrs Gallagher, Phillip-street, Parramatta' on 8 November 1891. She was buried at Waverley cemetery.<sup>4</sup> Mrs T F Gallagher published a notice of personal thanks for the sympathy and help she had received in her late trouble and bereavement on 28 November 1891.<sup>5</sup> Mrs T F Gallagher, of Willow Grove, Phillip Street, advertised for a good general servant on 14 May 1892.<sup>6</sup>

As part of the preparation for the issue of a title under the Real Property Act, a plan of survey of Willow Grove was prepared by surveyors Chatfield and Brown. However it only showed the lot boundaries but no details of buildings.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BDM 12285/1891, Transcript by Laurie Turtle

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 4 Nov 1891 p 2

<sup>3</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 11 Nov 1891, p 2

<sup>4</sup> *SMH*, 9 Nov 1891, p 1 and 8

<sup>5</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 28 Nov 1891, p 5

<sup>6</sup> *Cumberland Mercury* 14 May 1892, p 5

<sup>7</sup> DP 58321

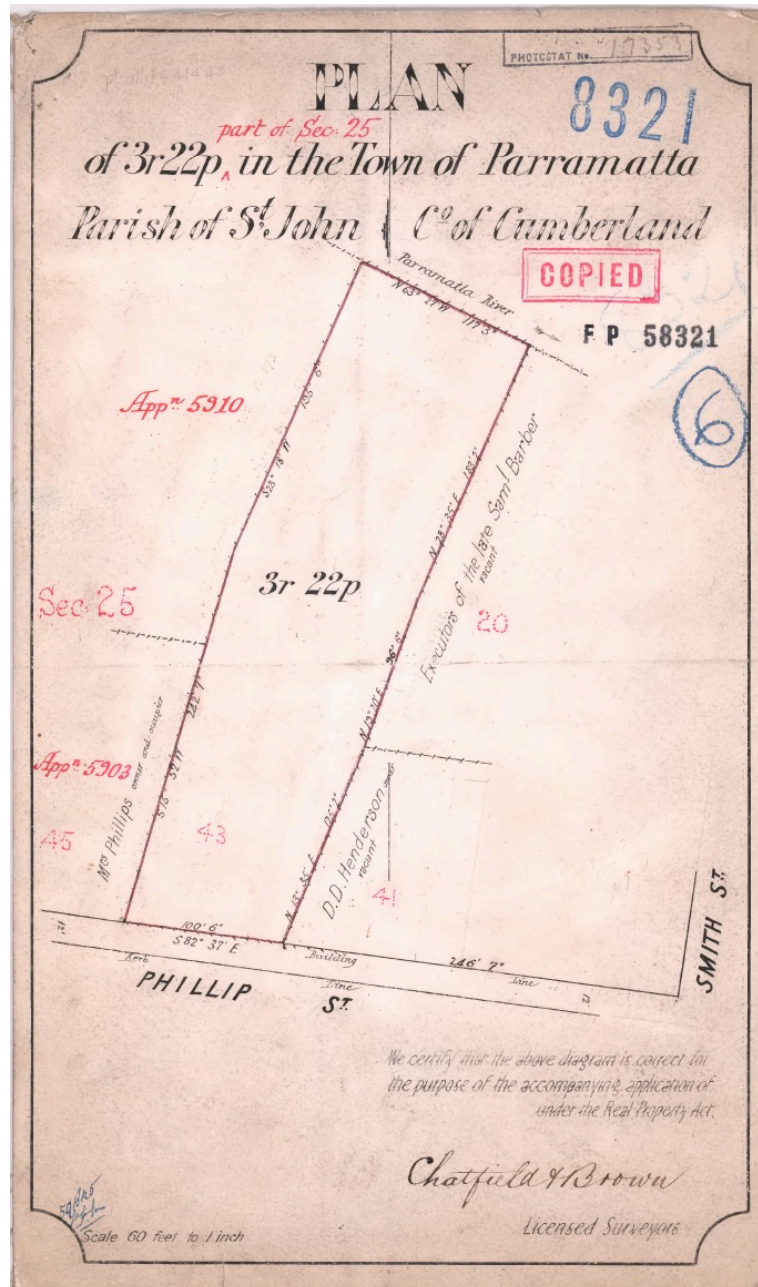


Figure 10 Chatfield and Brown's survey of the land Annie Gallagher wanted to convert to Torrens Title in her own name. Source: DP 58321

After the title to the site was converted to Torrens Title the first certificate was issued to Annie Josephine Gallagher, wife of Thomas Gallagher of Parramatta, draper on 8 April 1892 for an area of 3 roods 22 perches.<sup>1</sup> This was despite the fact that Thomas Gallagher was already deceased. The Land Titles Office simply copied the details supplied in the original application. However when Annie Josephine Gallagher took out a mortgage on the property on 1 March 1892, she was recorded as being a widow of Parramatta. The mortgage to the Australian Joint Stock Bank was for £1,200.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>2</sup> CT 1052 f 160; Dealing 194087

Tenders were called on 10 August 1892 by S M Green, architect for the erection of a stone pier dwarf wall and iron railing for the residence of Mrs Gallagher, Phillip Street, Parramatta.<sup>1</sup> On 13 August 1892, the date for submission of tenders was extended to 20 August.<sup>2</sup>

By the time of his death, Thomas Gallagher had also amassed substantial assets. By his will of 31 March 1890, Thomas Gallagher, draper of Parramatta appointed his wife Annie Josephine Gallagher and George Munro and Henry Clark of the firm of McArthur and Co, York Street, Sydney, as his executors. He bequeathed £500 to his father Patrick Gallagher of Carrick Coragher near Ballymote, Co Sligo, Ireland farmer and the same amount to his brother John of the same place, farmer. The balance would vest to his trustees to invest to pay the benefits to his wife and to their children after her death. The Stamp Duties Office form showed that Thomas Gallagher had a net estate of £3,011, including £200 of real estate [not Willow Grove], £766 in the bank, £900 in shares, a life insurance policy of £500, debts due of £150 and the proceeds of the sale of his stock in trade and a lease being £1157, plus other minor assets.<sup>3</sup> On 11 December 1893, the Supreme Court, Probate Division, ordered that the executors of Thomas Gallagher's estate to pay legacies of £500 each to Patrick Gallagher and John Gallagher plus interest of 5% for one year.<sup>4</sup>

The death duty papers of Thomas Gallagher showed that at 4 December 1891, he owed £62/17/8, to Hart & Sons, of Darcy Street.<sup>5</sup> Hart and Sons was a prominent timber merchant firm in Parramatta, which suggests that Thomas also contributed some funds to the construction of Willow Grove.

A Detail Survey plan of Parramatta was completed on 31 July 1894 as a preliminary to the construction of a sewerage scheme for Parramatta. The survey plan showed Willow Grove.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 10 Aug 1892, p 3

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, 13 Aug 1892, p 5

<sup>3</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, Thomas Gallagher, Series 4 No 1788, SANSW

<sup>4</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, Thomas Gallagher, Series 4 No 1788, SANSW

<sup>5</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, Thomas Gallagher, Series 4 No 1788, SANSW

<sup>6</sup> PWDS1544-S1240, Sydney Water

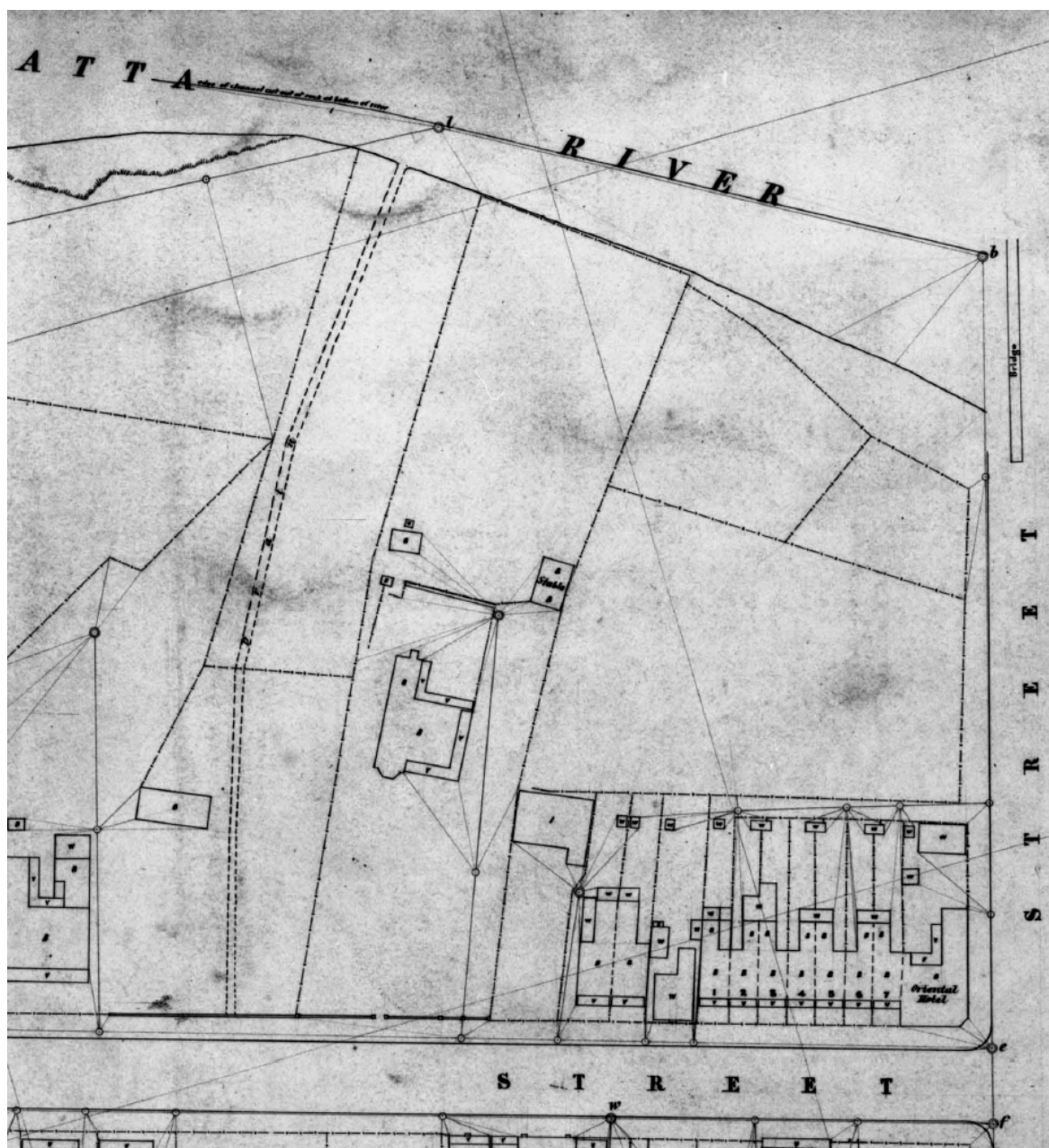


Figure 11 The finished Detail Survey Sheet showing Willow Grove and St Georges Terrace. Source: PWDS1544-S1240, Sydney Water

The earlier mortgage of Willow Grove from the Australian Joint Stock Bank was discharged on 3 November 1896. It was replaced by a mortgage to the Union Bank of Australia Ltd on 2 November 1896. That loan was discharged on 16 September 1898. Another mortgage to the Australian Joint Stock Bank replaced it on 27 September 1898. When that loan was discharged on 8 June 1900 another loan was taken from Charles Ernest Byrnes, of Parramatta, solicitor.<sup>1</sup> In the meantime, Annie's drapery business had prospered. In 1899, Gallagher's Arcade was renovated and modernised to become a bright and attractive retail outlet with Mr Vahrencamp as her manager.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 5 Aug 1899, p 4

## Willow Grove 1903 to 1919

However, Annie Gallagher had become increasingly indebted to W & A McArthur Ltd. George Munro and Henry Clark of the firm of McArthur and Co had previously been closely associated with Thomas Gallagher and Annie. They had been appointed joint executors of Thomas Gallagher's will along with Annie Gallagher.

In order to satisfy the demands of her creditors, on 12 February 1903, Annie Josephine Gallagher signed an Assignment for the benefit of creditors to John Percival McArthur, Sydney, merchant as the trustee for those creditors. Those creditors included W & A McArthur Ltd.<sup>1</sup> An auction of the contents of Willow Grove was held on 3 March 1903 to satisfy some of her debts.<sup>2</sup>

The following day, 4 March 1903, tenders were called by James Robertson, Priestley and Co, chartered accountants, for the purchase of the assets in the assigned estate of Annie Josephine Gallagher. Lot 3 was the house in Phillip Street described as,

LOT 3 — Brick Villa Residence, No. 2 Phillip street, Parramatta, substantially built and well finished, containing drawing, dining, and breakfast rooms, kitchen, and six bedrooms, together with coachhouse, stable, man's room, and all necessary offices, on land having a frontage of 100 feet to Phillip-street, by a depth of about 420 feet, covering an area of 3 roods 22 perches. Title Torrens.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OSD, No 878 Bk 730

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 28 Feb 1903, p 9

<sup>3</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 4 March 1903, p 3

**Public Notices.**

**I**N THE ASSIGNED ESTATE of ANNIE JOSEPHINE GALLAGHER, Trading as Mrs. T. F. Gallagher, of The Arcade, Church-street, Parramatta, Draper and Clothier.

TENDERS are hereby invited, and will be received at our offices up to 2 p.m. on MONDAY, the 9th March, 1903, for the PURCHASE of the undernoted ASSETS in the above Estate:—

**LOT 1.—Stock-in-Trade and Plant—**

Manchester and Dresses..	£306	14	7
Fancy, Laces, Gloves ..	224	15	1
Haberdashery, Hosiery etc.	125	4	8
Millinery, Underclothing, and Jackets ..	187	8	10
Mercery and Hats ..	122	4	3
Men's Clothing ..	110	11	9
Plant and Fittings ..	122	4	10
	£1199	4	0

**LOT 2.—Book Debts—**

Considered Good..	£137	4	8
„ Doubtful ..	25	13	2
„ Bad ..	117	3	9
	£1479	5	7

**LOT 3.—Brick Villa Residence, No. 2 Phillip-street, Parramatta, substantially built and well finished, containing drawing, dining, and breakfast rooms, kitchen, and six bedrooms, together with coachhouse, stable, man's room, and all necessary offices, on land having a frontage of 100 feet to Phillip-street, by a depth of about 420 feet, covering an area of 3 roods 22 perches. Title Torrens.**

**LOT 4.—Half Interest in Land having a frontage of 50 feet to Church-street, Parramatta, by a depth of 180 feet along Phillip-street, on which are erected a brick two-storey butcher's shop and residence, also produce store, with stables and several out-buildings. Freehold Title.**

**LOT 5.—Vacant Allotment in Phillip-street, Parramatta, having a frontage of 33 feet by a depth of 87 feet. Freehold Title.**

An excellent opportunity is here presented for anyone desirous of obtaining an old-established business in a good district on favorable terms. The Store Premises, which are situated in the busiest part of Parramatta, are well adapted for the requirements of the Trade, being commodious and well lighted. The Stock is reported by our Agent to be clean and in good condition.

Tenders will be received for Lots 1 and 2 either separate or conjointly. Separate tenders will be received for Lots 3, 4, and 5.

A deposit of 10 per cent. must accompany each tender. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Stock sheets, inventory of plant, and list of book debts may be inspected at the above Store, or at our offices, where tender forms and further information may be obtained.

**JAMES ROBERTSON, PRIESTLY, and CO.,**  
Incorporated Accountants.  
Hoffnung's-chambers, 103 Pitt-street,  
Sydney, 28th February, 1903.

Figure 12 The call for tenders to purchase Willow Grove. Source: *Cumberland Argus*, 4 March 1903, p 3

G T Erby purchased her stock in trade at 8/9 in the £ and offered it at half price on 28 March 1903.<sup>1</sup> The auction of 'WILLOWGROVE', Phillip Street by order of the mortgagee, C R Byrnes by auctioneers Mobbs and Hunt, 'known as Mrs Gallagher's' was announced on 27 June 1903. The property was described as,

Land area, 3 roods 22 perches, and has frontage of 100 feet to Phillip-st, by a depth of about 420 feet. Securely enclosed by paling fence, with stone wall and iron rails in front, nicely laid out grounds, upon which are erected a handsome two-storey Brick Family RESIDENCE, 9 rooms and usual domestic offices, coach house, stables, detached laundry, etc. .. This is an exceptional chance for Professional Gentleman [sic] or retired Merchant to secure a fine suburban home.<sup>2</sup>

cellent property.

**A VALUABLE PARRAMATTA TOWN PROPERTY for AUCTION SALE.**

By Order of the Mortgagee.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th, at 12 o'clock.**

**MOBBS AND HUNT** have received instructions to sell at their Sale Rooms, opp. Railway Station, Parramatta, on WED., JULY 8th. at noon, property known as "WILLOWGROVE," situate Phillip-st., Parramatta, in the centre of the town, and known as Mrs. Gallagher's. Land Area, 3 roods 22 perches, and has a frontage of 100 feet to Phillip-st., by a depth of about 420 feet. Securely enclosed by paling fence, with stone wall and iron rails in front, nicely laid out grounds, upon which are erected a handsome two-storey Brick Family RESIDENCE, 9 rooms and usual domestic offices, coachhouse, stables, detached laundry, etc. Torrens Title. Cards to view on application to the Auctioneers. Terms at Sale. This is an exceptional chance for Professional Gentleman or retired Merchant to secure a fine suburban home. C. E. BYRNES, Esq., Geo. st., Parramatta, Solicitor for the Mortgagee.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th.**

**IMPORTANT AUCTION SALE at UPSET**

Figure 13 Mortgagee auction advertisement for Willow Grove: Source: *Cumberland Argus*, 27 June 1903, p 9

<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 28 March 1903, p 12

<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 27 June 1903, p 9

The purchaser of the property at the mortgagee sale was the firm W & A McArthur Ltd and the transfer was registered on 14 July 1903.<sup>1</sup> The following day, 15 July 1903, Annie Josephine Gallagher, registered her firm trading as 'Mrs T F Gallagher' at the corner of Church and Phillip Streets.<sup>2</sup>

Willow Grove was advertised for lease, as 9 rooms and office, coach house stables etc at £65 on 12 September 1903.<sup>3</sup> By November 1903, Annie Josephine Gallagher was living in the Woolpack Hotel.<sup>4</sup>

Annie started business again in a small way financed by small loans. On 19 December 1903, Mrs T F Gallagher advertised that she was back in business at the Arcade, Church Street.<sup>5</sup> However, she was unable to rise above her debts. Annie Josephine Gallagher declared bankruptcy on 30 July 1906. She held no assets bequeathed by her husband except a life interest in two vacant lots in North Parramatta, that were sold to her daughter Mildred.<sup>6</sup>

Annie Josephine Gallagher died at the Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst on 9 January 1924 and was buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery Rookwood.<sup>7</sup> Her most recent address before her death was Darling Point Road, Darling Point. The cause of death was recorded as senile decay. Two of her children had pre-deceased her.<sup>8</sup> Annie had £33/3/9 in the Edgecliff branch of the Government Savings Bank as her only assets.<sup>9</sup>

Meanwhile, Willow Grove had been transferred to Elizabeth Melhuish, wife of Henry Dutton Melhuish, Granville, gentleman on 1 November 1906.<sup>10</sup>

### Elizabeth Melhuish and Henry Dutton Melhuish

Henry Dutton Melhuish was the principal of the firm of H D Melhuish and Son, engineers, and iron and brass founders of Spring Hill near Orange registered on 25 July 1903.<sup>11</sup> He was an entrepreneur, patenting improvements to the manner in which chaff cutting machines worked.<sup>12</sup> His engineering works at Spring Hill was a notable enterprise in the town.<sup>13</sup> He had been born at Charlestown, parish St Anstel, Cornwall, England on 17 February 1834 to a sea captain. He served an apprenticeship with engineer James Thomas at Charlestown.<sup>14</sup> Henry D Melhuish

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<sup>1</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>2</sup> NRS 12961, Register of Firms, SANSW 2/8532, No 8389

<sup>3</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 12 Sept 1903, p 9

<sup>4</sup> Evidence, Annie Josephine Gallagher & Elizabeth Evans, 23 Aug 1906, in NRS 13655, Supreme Court, Bankruptcy File, No 17084, SANSW 10/23500

<sup>5</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 19, Dec 1903, p 3

<sup>6</sup> NRS 13655, Supreme Court, Bankruptcy File, No 17084, SANSW 10/23500

<sup>7</sup> *Sun*, 10 Jan 1924, p 10; *Daily Telegraph*, 11 Jan 1924, p 4

<sup>8</sup> BDM 1924/55, Transcript by Laurie Turtle

<sup>9</sup> NRS 13340, Stamp Duties Office, Deceased Estate File, pre A 3610, SANSW 20/939

<sup>10</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>11</sup> NRS 12961, Register of Firms, SANSW 2/8535, No 11154

<sup>12</sup> CRS A4617, No 9613; CRS 4681, No 4531; No 9613

<sup>13</sup> *Leader* (Orange), 10 Jan 1900, p 6

<sup>14</sup> *Wellington Times*, 12 Sept 1929, p 4

lived at Parkes for some years moving to Spring Hill about 1883. His first wife died.<sup>1</sup> He then married Elizabeth Hubbard, widow.

His new wife Elizabeth had previously been married to Thomas Hubbard, of Maryvale near Wellington. The marriage of Thomas Hubbard and Elizabeth Seaton was registered at Bathurst in 1862.<sup>2</sup> Thomas Hubbard died on 22 June 1897.<sup>3</sup> After prospering in the Central West at Nyngan and Wellington, he had moved to Granville about 1893 becoming 'an admirable townsman' who was a keep temperance advocate. He died of stomach cancer.<sup>4</sup> His Stamp Duties return showed he held assets totalling a net value of £2,630, mostly made up of real estate worth £2,339/10/0. His will of 7 May 1897 left his real estate to his sons on condition they paid the following sums annually to his wife Elizabeth: Arthur Hubbard £25; Frederick Hubbard £25; and George Hinson Hubbard £18.<sup>5</sup>

Henry D Melhuish had been raised as a Methodist but converted to the Baptist Church after his re-marriage to Elizabeth.<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Hubbard was reputed to have been a strong factor in Thomas Hubbard's success.<sup>7</sup> She was an astute businesswoman. As Elizabeth Melhuish, she owned a number of rental properties in Parramatta and Granville, some of which were classified as unhealthy.<sup>8</sup>

Melhuish and his wife lived at Willow Grove for many years until they purchased 'Taringa' in Granville to where they moved. Elizabeth Melhuish died at 'Taringa' on 8 July 1924. She was buried next to her first husband in Mays Hill cemetery.<sup>9</sup> Henry Dutton Melhuish returned to the Central West where he died at Wellington on 25 August 1929 aged 95.

It is unclear when Henry and Elizabeth Melhuish vacated Willow Grove. Sands Directory lists them as occupying the property until 1919. However, on 10 July 1915, Mr and Mrs S Hoffman were recorded as occupiers in the Parramatta press.<sup>10</sup> On 3 November 1917 'Mrs Brown' was said to be occupying Willow Grove.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Wellington Times*, 19 Sept 1929, p 13

<sup>2</sup> BDM index, 1415/1862

<sup>3</sup> *Wellington Times*, 10 July 1924, p 7; J Dunn, *The Parramatta Cemeteries: Mays Hill*, Parramatta and District Historical Society, Parramatta, 1996, pp 173-4

<sup>4</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 26 June 1897 p 2, 6

<sup>5</sup> NRS 13660, Supreme Court, Probate Packet, Thomas Hubbard, Series 4 No 14160, SANSW

<sup>6</sup> *Wellington Times*, 19 Sept 1929, p 13

<sup>7</sup> *Wellington Times*, 10 July 1924, p 7

<sup>8</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 10 Oct 1906 p 3; See also *Cumberland Argus*, 19 April 1905 p 2; 7 April 1906 p 2

<sup>9</sup> *Wellington Times*, 10 July 1924, p 7; J Dunn, *The Parramatta Cemeteries: Mays Hill*, Parramatta and District Historical Society, Parramatta, 1996, pp 173-4

<sup>10</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 10 July 1915 p 12


<sup>11</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 3 Nov 1917, p 10

## Private Hospital 1919 to 1953

Nevertheless, in 1919, Willow Grove became a private hospital continuing in that role until 1953. The property was transferred to Evangeline Estelle Davidson, wife of Robert Davidson, Ashfield, farmer on 5 February 1919 and was mortgaged to Elizabeth Melhuish, wife of Henry Dutton Melhuish, Parramatta, gentleman the same day. Another mortgage to Francis John Ward, Sydney, esquire was made on 8 May 1919.<sup>1</sup>

A new licence for Estella Private Hospital at 34 Phillip Street, Parramatta, was granted under Private Hospitals Act, 1908 on 12 May 1919, to Evangeline Estelle Davidson as a 'medical, surgical and lying-in' private hospital treating a maximum of 14 'medical, surgical and lying-in' cases in 6 wards until 31 December 1919. Other private hospitals licensed in Parramatta included 'Stanleigh' at Macquarie and Smith Streets and 'Glen Ross' in Church Street.<sup>2</sup> The licence was re-issued for 1920 on 12 December 1919.<sup>3</sup>

NOTE.—This License must be returned to the Secretary, Board of Health (1) when application is made for its renewal; (2) for amendment; (3) when a change is made in ownership of the hospital; or (4) when the hospital is closed.



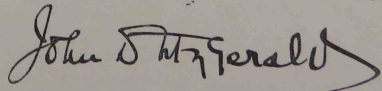
“PRIVATE HOSPITALS ACT, 1908.”

FORM 4.

*License in respect of a Private Hospital.*

I, JOHN DANIEL FITZGERALD, Minister of Public Health of the State of New South Wales, being the Minister for the time being charged with the administration of the said Act, in pursuance of the powers thereby vested in me, and on the recommendation of the Board of Health, DO HEREBY LICENSE Evangeline Estelle Davidson, in respect of the private hospital known as Estella, and situate at 34 Phillip Street, Parramatta, as a medical, surgical and lying-in private hospital, under the said Act, for the reception and treatment at any one time of not more than fourteen medical, surgical and lying-in cases in six wards.

This license shall have effect, subject to the said Act, until and inclusive of the 31st day of December, 1919.

  
Minister of Public Health.

The 12th day of May, 1919.

38571-2

**Figure 14 Original private hospital licence issued to Evangeline Davidson on 12 May 1919. Source: Licence in NRS 905, Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles, Private Hospital Licences 1918-9, SANSW 5/8033**

<sup>1</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>2</sup> Licence in NRS 905, Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles, Private Hospital Licences 1918-9, SANSW 5/8033

<sup>3</sup> Licence in NRS 905, Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles, Private Hospital Licences 1920-1, SANSW 5/9201.1

The mortgage to Ward was discharged on 26 April 1921. Evangeline Estelle Davidson transferred Willow Grove to May Victoria West, Mosman, spinster on 23 July 1923.<sup>1</sup> May Victoria West was registered as a midwife on 5 August 1926. Her address was then given as Women's Hospital, Crown Street.<sup>2</sup> This appears to result from the surviving registers for midwives only date from 1926. Sister M West advertised Westcourt Private Hospital lately Estella on 29 August 1923.<sup>3</sup>

Mortgagee Elizabeth Melhuish died at Granville on 7 July 1924. She was the former owner and occupier of Willow Grove. Her total assets were £6,467. May Victoria West, 'Proprietress of a Private Hospital' owed £1,000 on her mortgage to Melhuish of a 'two story brick building used as a private Hospital situate in Phillip Street Parramatta'.<sup>4</sup> That mortgage to Melhuish was discharged on 10 March 1925.<sup>5</sup>

Sister May West, formerly of Parramatta District Hospital but now of Westcourt Private Hospital advertised on 15 May 1925 that she was not a candidate in Queen completion.<sup>6</sup>

A new Certificate of Title was issued to May Victoria West, Parramatta, spinster on 18 November 1925.<sup>7</sup> On 5 October 1925, the property known as 'Westcourt Private Hospital' was leased to Amy Agnes Allen and Maud Lowe, both of Parramatta, spinsters at £6 per week. The lease specified that it could only be used as a private hospital.<sup>8</sup> The Parramatta press reported on 9 October 1925 that sisters Allen and Lowe, both Parramatta District Hospital trainees had taken over 'Westcourt Private Hospital', which would now be named 'Aloha'.<sup>9</sup> Amy Agnes Allen did not remain at the hospital for long. On 5 August 1926, when she was again registered as a midwife, her address was St Johns Nursing Home, Young.<sup>10</sup>

New proprietors had taken over by 1927. On 15 November 1927, the NSW Board of Health approved a private hospital licence be issued to Hannah Florence McLachlan and Mary McLachlan for 'Aloha'. Phillip Street, Parramatta for 'fifteen medical, surgical and lying-in cases in seven wards'.<sup>11</sup> Mary McLachlan and her sister Hannah Florence McLachlan had previously conducted 'Inchneuk' Private hospital at the corner of George and Smith Streets, Parramatta for four years from 24 October 1923.<sup>12</sup> They continued to conduct Aloha private hospital for

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<sup>1</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>2</sup> NRS 10856, Register of midwives, SANSW 6/4535, p 595

<sup>3</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 29 Aug 1923 p 5

<sup>4</sup> NRS 13340, Stamp Duties Office, Deceased Estate File, pre A No 7767, SANSW 20/983

<sup>5</sup> CT 1052 f 160

<sup>6</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 15 May 1925 p 5

<sup>7</sup> CT 3800 f 154

<sup>8</sup> CT 3800 f 154; Dealing B274156

<sup>9</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 9 Oct 1925, p 4

<sup>10</sup> NRS 10856, Register of midwives, SANSW 6/4535, p 11

<sup>11</sup> Licence in NRS 905, Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles, Private Hospital Licences 1928, SANSW 5/9202

<sup>12</sup> OSD, No 802 Bk 1327; Valuer-General, Valuation Roll, Parramatta, George Street, SANSW 19/12783, No 1869

some years. On 1 December 1932, Hannah Florence McLachlan and Mary McLachlan were licensed for 'Aloha'. Phillip Street, Parramatta for 'fifteen medical, surgical and lying-in cases in seven wards' for 1933.<sup>1</sup>

Various updates were made of the Detail Survey Plans by the Water Board in the 1920s, but no sheet appears to have been completed for this part of Parramatta, or alternatively, the relevant sheet has not survived. The next surviving Detail Sheet is a sheet in poor condition which carries a date of December 1933 upon it. This date may not be the final date for the sheet and may simply refer to updates made.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 15 Water Board Detail Survey sheet c 1933 showing Willow Grove and St Georges Terrace.**  
Source: Blackwattle BLKWTL 2712 (2), Sydney Water

<sup>1</sup> Licence in NRS 905, Colonial Secretary, Special Bundles, Private Hospital Licences 1933-4, SANSW 9/2414.1

<sup>2</sup> Blackwattle BLKWTL 2712 (2), Sydney Water

It is unclear when new proprietors took over the hospital. On 11 June 1947, sister F A Thompson announced that Aloha Private Hospital was not planning to close.<sup>1</sup> Wise's Directory of 1947 listed Aloha Private Hospital, 34 Phillip St and Inch Neuk, 77 George Street as the only private hospitals in Parramatta.<sup>2</sup>

The property was transferred to Frances Amy Thompson, wife of John Thomas Thompson, Parramatta, engineer on 18 August 1949.<sup>3</sup> Frances Amy Higgins, of St Margaret's Hospital, Sydney, had been registered as a midwife on 6 March 1930. Her certificate was altered to Thompson after her marriage.<sup>4</sup> She had married John Thomas Thompson at Parramatta in 1930.<sup>5</sup>

Frances Amy Thompson mortgaged the property to May Victoria West, of Granville, spinster on 2 November 1949. That loan was discharged on 2 May 1953.<sup>6</sup>

### Ownership by Postmaster General of Australia 1953 to 1987

On 17 June 1953, part of the property with Willow Grove measuring 2 roods 1¾ perches was transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia.<sup>7</sup> The residue of the land consisting of the rear section adjoining the river was transferred to the Council of the City of Parramatta.<sup>8</sup> Parramatta Council was informed on 29 July 1953 that the Postmaster General's Department had purchased Aloha Private Hospital, Phillip Street.<sup>9</sup> A new Certificate of Title for Willow Grove measuring 2 roods 1¾ perches was issued to the Commonwealth of Australia on 2 October 1953.<sup>10</sup> A Water Board Detail Survey possibly dated as 20 October 1960 showed the footprint of Willow Grove on its site.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 11 June 1947 p 10

<sup>2</sup> *Wise's New South Wales Post Office and Commercial Directory*, 1947, Sydney, p 356

<sup>3</sup> CT 3800 f 154

<sup>4</sup> NRS 10856, Register of midwives, SANSW 6/4535, p 250; 562

<sup>5</sup> BDM index 8487/1930

<sup>6</sup> CT 3800 f 154

<sup>7</sup> CT 3800 f 154

<sup>8</sup> CT 3800 f 154

<sup>9</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 29 July 1953, p 1

<sup>10</sup> CT 6725 f 146

<sup>11</sup> DS 2712, Sydney Water

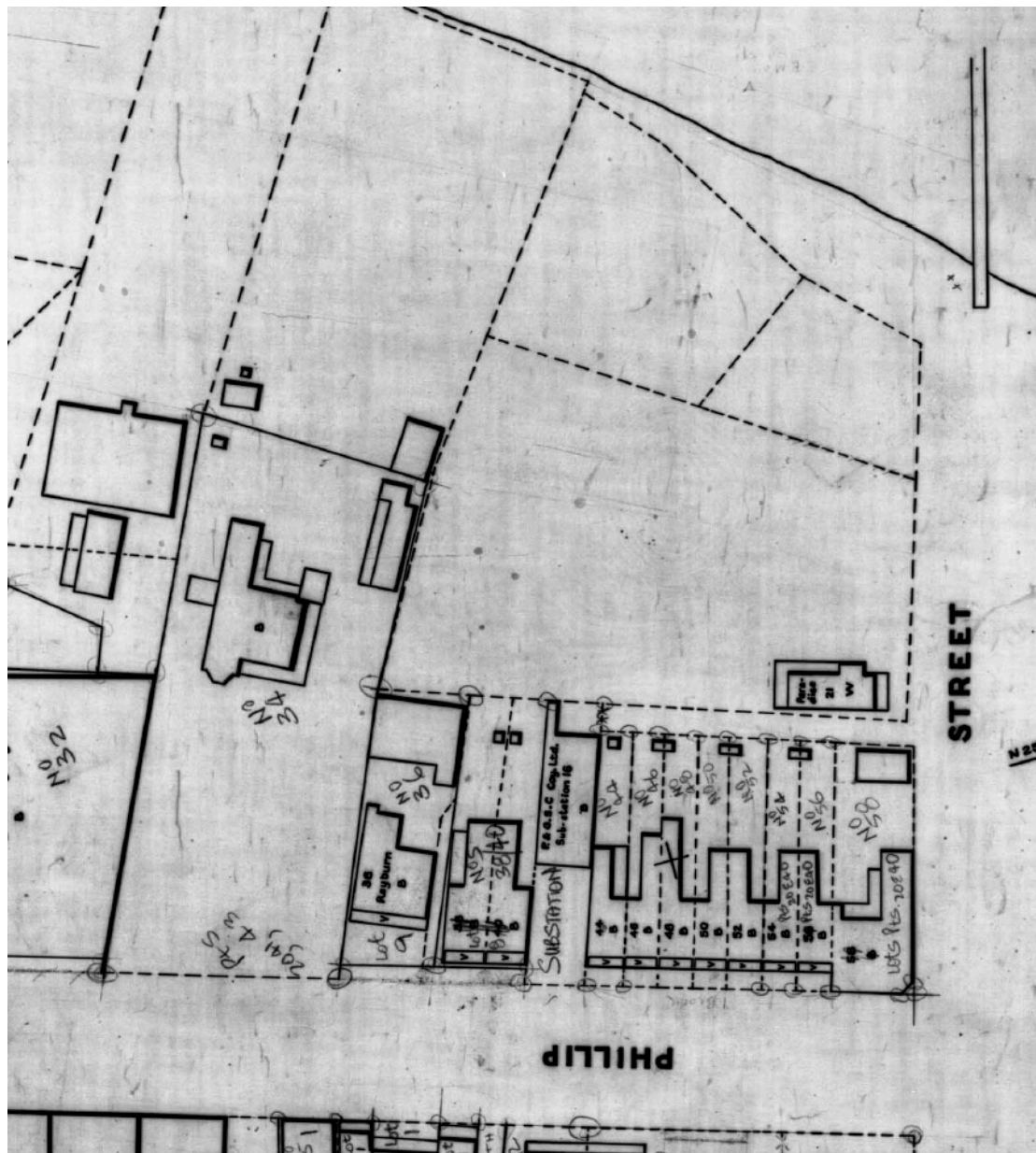


Figure 16 Detail Survey sheet October 1960 showing Willow Grove and St Georges Terrace. Source: DS 2712, Sydney Water

A new Certificate of Title was issued to the Australian Telecommunications Commission on 19 August 1974 for lot 1 in DP 569139 after the transfer of part of the land. Agostino Brothers Pty Ltd were registered as the new proprietors on 26 March 1987.<sup>1</sup> The title was converted to an Auto Folio and the search was terminated at this point.

<sup>1</sup> CT 12517 f90

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## Preliminary Analysis of Aspects of the Historical and Social Significance of Willow Grove

This section examines aspects of the history relevant to an assessment of the significance of the place known as Willow Grove, 34 Phillip Street Parramatta.

1. Between 1879 and 1953, this property has been in the sole possession of a series of women, who held the property in their own right separate to any property of their husband.
2. Willow Grove was constructed in 1891 for Annie Josephine Gallagher, who held the property in her own right apart from her husband Thomas Gallagher.
3. From 1919 until 1953, Willow Grove operated as a private hospital handling surgical and medical cases as well as operating as a maternity hospital. During the whole period it was solely owned by women. Registered female nurses always managed the private hospital that operated in the building under different names. Other private hospitals in Sydney and across the state of New South Wales were also owned or conducted by women. A number of others were also conducted by registered medical practitioners.
4. Willow Grove was designed by Sydney Moore Green, an architect who had practised for a number of years with renowned architect Thomas Rowe. It was an early commission after the partnership with Thomas Rowe was dissolved in February 1890. Rowe called for tenders to construct Willow Grove in December 1890, ensuring it was one of his first design projects after he set out on his own.
5. As the regional centre offering commercial and professional services to much of Western Sydney, Parramatta had a significant population in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries of villas occupied by businessmen and professionals such as doctors and lawyers. Over the years, these villas, particularly those near the river have disappeared. 'Willow Grove' is the last of these. Though an internal inspection has not been carried out, it still appears to retain most of its original fabric in an excellent state of maintenance.
6. Willow Grove has social significance for the families and individuals who used it as a maternity hospital. The extent of this social significance is difficult to quantify. However, the public opposition to the proposed demolition of Willow Grove is an indicator of its intensity. An indication of the attachment which people have for Willow Grove has been demonstrated by a number of people have sent birth certificates and other information in response to public appeals by the North Parramatta Residents Action Group and forwarded to me. They are attached in Appendix B.

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