

The health of Miss Grace Overy (Principal 1926-1940) declined in the late 1930s and she died in 1940. The chapel at the western end of Wallis Hall contains a plaque in her memory, and the stained glass windows to the chapel were dedicated to her memory in 1941 (see Figure 11 below). Her replacement was Miss Elsie Hannam (1901-1990).



Figure 10: Sydney Morning Herald article published 5 August 1941 (page 3) relating to the dedication of the chapel's stained glass windows to the memory of Miss Grace Overy.

While Miss Hannam changed the curriculum, no major physical changes occurred during the first half of her tenure, which lasted until 1957, owing to the war and post-war restrictions on building. The restrictions did not affect the purchase of land in 1951 sited on the west side of the School that was part of the grounds of Selbourne on Redmyre Road. The purchase increased the playground space. In 1961 Selbourne house was purchased (since demolished).



Figure 11: Looking down on the Meriden School site in 1943 Source: Roads and Traffic Authority

2.4 POST 1950S DEVELOPMENTS

By the mid 1950s there was an urgent need for general classrooms and more specialized teaching rooms. This demand was gradually satisfied by the building of the Ethel B. Wallis Memorial Gymnasium in 1954 and the Science Block in 1955 (demolished in 1997 for the SM Morton Science Wing).

The architects for both buildings were the longstanding and well known architectural firm Peddle Thorp and Walker established in 1889 by James Peddle. Samuel George Thorp became a partner in the early 1910s and in 1924 H. Earnest Walker became the third partner. Under the leadership of Graham Thorp, the firm dominated the commercial building market in Sydney from the 1950s, with the best-known example of their work of that period being the AMP Tower at Circular Quay completed in 1962.

The Science Block was sited on part of the Jeroun site in Margaret Street purchased in 1937. Jeroun house was demolished in 1957 for the building of Hope House. Jeroun's neighbour, Eldon, purchased in 1938, was demolished in 1958 for the building of Turner House. These new developments increased the number of available classrooms.

An existing house at No. 3 Margaret Street was purchased in 1955 and it was converted into classrooms for art, dressmaking, etc. In later years it was the music tuition room. It still stands. This house was built in 1907 for barrister Tom Rolin of Sydney. Rolin purchased the allotment in May 1907¹⁰ and arranged for the building of the cottage, which was completed by November 1907 and tenanted by a Frenchman named Henry Charles de Muralt who named the house Youla.¹¹ Later owners and occupiers of Youla were James Cameron (1911-1911)¹² and Christopher Frederick Rothschild, later known as Christopher F Russell (1913-1921).¹³ The house was up for sale in late 1921 and was then described as:¹⁴

A charming cottage home with well-kept grounds, and first class tennis court (purchased by Meriden in 1939)

It is built of brick, tile roof, containing tiled verandah, hall, 5 rooms, breakfast room or kitchen, sleeping-out verandah (abt.10ft x 45 ft0, laundry, linen closet, well-fitted bathroom, heater, back verandah. Electric light throughout, garage.

Land, about 130 feet by about 118 feet on one side, and about 130 feet on the other. Side entrance for tradesmen.

In 1922 the house was purchased by Margaret Cotter,¹⁵ the widow of Timothy W Cotter who had died in 1913.¹⁶ Mrs. Cotter named the house Fairhaven. The house was sold in 1939 to Mrs. Dorothy M Gavin, another widow,¹⁷ who sold it to Meriden in 1955.¹⁸

Miss Hannam resigned in 1957 and, after a short period with an acting headmistress and the brief term of Miss James, Miss Joy Fox was appointed in 1961. Miss Fox was the first Australian born and educated headmistress of Meriden. Prior to Miss Fox's appointment, the School had purchased two additional sites: Strathnoon at the corner of Redmyre Road and Vernon Street in 1959 (now the Junior Campus), and 13 Margaret Street in 1960.

¹⁰ Certificate of Title Vol. 1531 Fol. 235

¹¹ Sands Directory; Advertisement, Sydney Morning Herald, 25/11/1907

¹² Torrens Title Dealing 604469

¹³ Torrens Title Dealing A42748

¹⁴ Advertisement, Sydney Morning Herald, 7/12/1921, p.17

¹⁵ Torrens Title Dealing A776981

¹⁶ NSW BDM On-line; 'Mrs. Bridget Murray', The Catholic Press 23/4/1925, p.16

¹⁷ Certificate of Title Vol. 5058 Fol. 124

¹⁸ Torrens Title Dealing G331117

Co-incidental with the appointment of Miss Fox, Colin Hudson was appointed the chairman of the School Council. Mr. Hudson was the managing director of Loveridge and Hudson, stone merchants, and had been mayor of Strathfield over the late 1940s. Hudson's term lasted in one form or another until 1968 and during that time the School undertook an ambitious building program inclusive of:

1961	Turner House on Margaret Street extended
1961	Library built on site of 9 Margaret Street
1964	Science Building extended
1966	Hope House on Margaret Street extended
1968	Wallis Hall and the boarders' quarters extended
1968	Hudson House built (located in the Junior School and not part of this development)

Towards the end of Hudson's term as chairman, in 1966 Miss Sheila Morton was appointed headmistress. Miss Morton's tenure lasted until 1984 and as such she was the longest serving headmistress in the School's history. Miss Morton implemented the changes necessitated by the adoption of the recommendations of the Wyndham Scheme, which included an expansion of secondary education from five to six years, the replacement of the Leaving Certificate by the Higher School Certificate, and placed a greater emphasis on science and mathematics. The Library for example was extended in 1970. Sport became more varied in the options available, but the limited sports fields at Meriden hampered this.

Since 1970 there have been a number of new developments and alterations to existing buildings and facilities. These are tabulated below (subject site only):

1975	Gilhespy Administration Block built (necessitated demolition of the Bungalow, built c.1923)
1976	Swimming pool built (necessitated demolition of Wariora)
1978	Playing fields extended by the demolition of Selbourne
1982	Arts and Crafts Building built (part site of Wariora)
1984	11 Margaret Street purchased (future site of the Year 12 Common Room).
1992	Year 12 Common Room erected on the site of 11 Margaret Street (purchased in 1984 and the house was demolished in 1988)
1992	Arts and Crafts Building (built 1982) extended for the Design and Technology Building
1992	Rear Extensions and Clock Tower added to Wallis Hall, Wallis Hall refurbished from 1992-1997
1992	New storeroom constructed to the south-east of the Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium (against the eastern site boundary). This location is near the southern tennis courts and the 2010 Pottery Room
1993	Weatherboard classrooms (built between 1925 and 1929) demolished to form open space
1994	Pool shelters built
1996	Performing Arts Studio and Sports Pavilion erected on the site of 13 Margaret Street (purchased in 1960)
1997	SM Morton Science Wing built (on site of Science House erected in 1955)
2010	New pottery room added to the eastern end of the Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium (replacing 1954 annexe)

This expansion of school facilities necessitated the demolition of the Bungalow in 1975, Wariora in 1976, Selbourne in 1978, the house at 11 Margaret Street in 1992, the 1920s weatherboard classrooms in 1993, and Science House in 1996.

The Wallis Hall was also refurbished from 1992. This work was inclusive of refurbishment in 1993 of the assembly hall, Hannam Room, and canteen; refurbishing and extending the library in 1993; and establishing the Independent Learning Centre in 1997.

2.5 SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

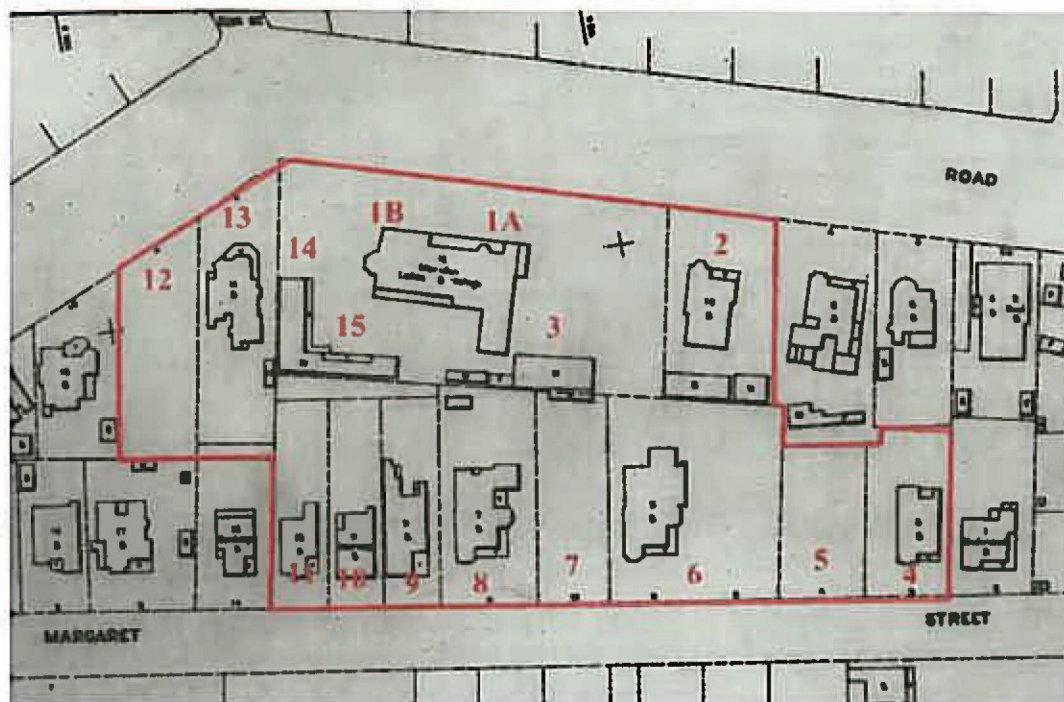


Figure 12: Annotated water board plan from 1952 (see key below)

Key to Figure 12

No.	Description
1A	The Briars Erected around 1885 for Edward Richard Deas-Thomson and originally named Riccarton. Purchased in 1888 by James Cobban Smith and renamed The Briars. Purchased by Meriden School in 1914. Enveloped by Wallis Hall (1B) in 1935
1B	Wallis Hall Erected by Meriden School in 1935. Development included The Briars (1A). Still standing
2	Wariora, 10 Redmyre Road Built c.1880s. Leased by Meriden School in 1909. Purchased by Meriden School in 1919. Sold in 1925. Repurchased in 1937. Demolished in 1976
3	The Bungalow. Erected by Meriden School around 1923. Demolished in 1975
4	Youla/Fairhaven, 3 Margaret Street Purchased by Meriden School in 1955. Still standing
5	Un-numbered, Margaret Street (originally part of grounds of No. 3 Margaret Street) Purchased by Meriden School in 1939 for its tennis court. Still used as a tennis court.
6	Eldon, 5 Margaret Street Purchased by Meriden School in 1938. Demolished in 1958
7	Not determined
8	Jeroun, 7 Margaret Street

No.	Description
	Purchased by Meriden School in 1937. Demolished in 1957
9	Wolari, 9 Margaret Street Purchased by Meriden School in 1939. Demolished in 1961
10	Invermay, 11 Margaret Street Purchased by Meriden School in 1984. Demolished in 1988
11	13 Margaret Street Purchased by Meriden School in 1960. Demolished in 1958
12	Selbourne, 14 Redmyre Road Site purchased in 1951 for playing fields
13	Selbourne, 14 Redmyre Road House purchased in 1961. Demolished in 1978
14	Weatherboard Classroom Erected by Meriden School in 1929. Demolished in 1993
15	Weatherboard Classroom Erected by Meriden School in 1927. Demolished in 1993

3.0 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MERIDEN SCHOOL SITE

The heritage-listed Meriden school site contains numerous buildings and structures, which are outlined in the following list and on site overlay plans below.

1. Wallis Hall, constructed 1935 to a design by architect T.J. Sampson. This building contains the following distinctive elements:
 - 1a. the remnants of *The Briars*, a two-storey Victorian Italianate style villa constructed circa 1885, which has been subsumed into the eastern end of the 1935 building
 - 1b. a memorial chapel in a faceted bay at the western end of the building, with chapel fitout dating from 1935 and memorial stained glass windows dating from 1941
 - 1c. the 1935 façade and colonnade to Redmyre Road including the clock tower in the north-western corner added when the building was refurbished in 1992.

Note the clock tower and rear additions were constructed in 1992, as part of refurbishment and extensions to the building at this time.
2. Ethel B. Wallis Memorial Gymnasium, constructed in 1954 to a design by architects Peddle Thorp & Walker (note this building originally had an annexe which was replaced by the Pottery Room in 2010)
3. Hope House constructed 1957
4. Turner House constructed in 1959
5. SM Morton Science Wing constructed in 1997 (which involved demolition of the 1995 Science Block)
6. *Fairhaven*, No. 3 Margaret Street, a Federation Queen Anne style single storey constructed 1907, heritage-listed on the Strathfield LEP
7. Music Centre constructed, which has an intrusive demountable addition at its south-western end
8. Performing Arts Studio, constructed, located in the south-western corner of the site

9. Pottery Room, constructed 2010 (officially opened on 26th February 2010), attached to the eastern end of the Ethel B. Wallis Memorial Gymnasium
10. Gilhespy Administration Block constructed in 1975
11. Design Centre, fronting Redmyre Road, eastern end of the Redmyre Road site frontage. Constructed 1982 and extended in 1992.
12. Swimming Pool to west of Design Centre, constructed in 1976 with
- 12a. Swimming pool shelters constructed in 1994
13. Tennis courts fronting Margaret Street (west of No. 3 Margaret Street)
14. 3 sets of cast iron gateposts along Redmyre Road
15. Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) west of No. 3 Margaret Street. This palm is on the Strathfield Significant Tree Register
16. 3 Ficus trees on the Margaret Street frontage of Turner House
17. Mature Cabbage tree palm (*Livingstonia Australis*) to the north of Wallis Hall
18. Tennis court in far north-western corner of the site
19. Free-standing storeroom for Maintenance team, constructed c. 1992, located north of tennis courts 13, near 2010 Pottery Room (9)

Section 3.2 below briefly describes particular buildings, structures and landscape features.



1. Bluffs Hall 1935, incorporating existing walls (1/7/74 Bluffs Hall 1935)
2. Chapel House and James Dunn residence and 11/2 Pavilion and Catherine House 1935 and 1936
3. Earl B. Bluffs Memorial Gymnasium 1945
4. Hope House 1957
5. Turner House 1959
6. St. Martin's School Wing 1967
7. "Pavilion" No. 3 Haggart Street, 1967, adjacent to school 1965
8. Music Centre 1967
9. Performing Arts Studio 1996
10. Pattern House (adjacent to Earl B. Bluffs Gymnasium) 2010
11. Gallery Adjacent to Pattern House
12. Design and Technology Centre 1982 extended 1992
13. Swimming Pool 1976, (12/2) Pool Deckers 1994
14. Tennis Courts
15. Early Gun Post Gate posts, Redmyre Road
16. Gun Post Gate posts, Redmyre Road
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100. Gun Post Gate posts, Redmyre Road

Figure 13: Site plan (based on NBS 6 Partners site plan) with elements identified.

3.2 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PARTICULAR BUILDINGS WITHIN THE SENIOR CAMPUS SITE

The following buildings and elements on the site are described in detail in this section: Wallis Hall (Building 1 in the above list); Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium (Building 2); Fairhaven, No. 3 Margaret Street (Building 6);

Wallis Hall (Building 1)

This is a two storey brick building constructed in 1935 to the design of architect Thomas Pollard Sampson, incorporating the c. 1885 house *The Briars* into the eastern end of the building. The 1943 aerial photo (Figure 11) and other early photos show that as completed in 1935 the building retained *The Briars* rear service wing at the south-eastern end, and had no clock tower (see Figures 8 -10 above).

The clock tower at the north-western corner of the building was added to Wallis Hall in 1992, when the building was refurbished.

The building's first floor originally housed boarders, however the school ceased to take boarders after 1979, which would have fuelled further alterations to the building's interior. The school Library now occupies most of the western end of the first floor.

There are now two rear wings, constructed in the 1990s, the eastern one replacing the original service wing of *The Briars*. The addition of these rear wings has considerably altered the rear of the building, removing most of the original rear wall at both ground and first floor levels.

The Chapel in the faceted bay at the western end of the building retains an original fitout from 1935 with memorial plaque and stained glass windows memorialising Miss Grace Overy, dedicated in 1941.



Figure 14: Detail, ground floor eastern end of north elevation, showing colonnade and details of *The Briars* including faceted bay window (at right)



Figure 15: 1935 foundation stone of Wallis Hall, on northern elevation



Figure 16: Northern elevation of Wallis Hall taken from the west, showing the clock tower at the north-western corner.



Figure 17: Detail of the eastern entry of Wallis Hall, part of *The Briars*



Figure 18: Eastern elevation of Wallis Hall. The red line marks the start of the 1990s rear extension.



Figure 19: Western elevation of Wallis Hall, showing clock tower at left and chapel.



Figure 20: Detail, rear of western elevation of Wallis Hall. Red line indicates where rear additions begin. At the first floor level, there is a bricked-up window just left of the red line.



Figure 21: View of western and southern elevations of Wallis Hall



Figure 22: View of rear (southern) elevation of Wallis Hall, showing modern (1990s) additions



Figure 23: Interior view, ground floor, western end assembly hall, looking towards rear (south) into modern addition



Figure 24: Interior view, ground floor assembly hall, western end of Wallis building, looking west towards the chapel

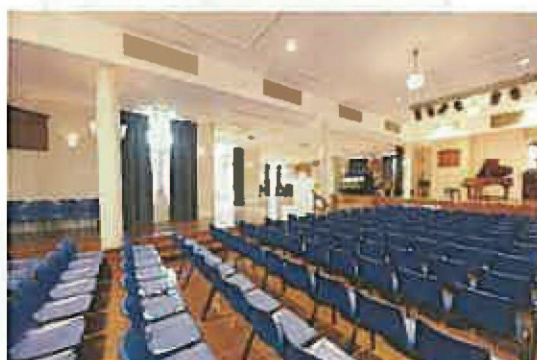


Figure 25: Interior view, ground floor assembly hall, looking south-west into rear extension



Figure 26: Ground floor assembly hall, looking east



Figure 27: Ground floor assembly hall, western end of Wallis Hall, eastern end of assembly hall – view of original western entry to *The Briars*



Figure 28: Interior of chapel, western end, ground floor Assembly Hall



Figure 29: Central stained glass window to chapel



Figure 30: Stained glass window to chapel



Figure 31: Stained glass window to chapel

Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium (Building 2)

The Ethel B. Wallis Memorial Gymnasium is a single storey rectangular brick building with a gabled terracotta tiled roof, constructed in 1954 to a design by architects Peddle Thorp and Walker. It originally had an annexe at its eastern end, however this has been replaced by Pottery Room constructed in 2010. The hall has a memorial plaque attached near the western entry door, a timber sprung floor, and highlight windows along both the southern and northern elevations.



Figure 32: Western elevation, main entry to Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium

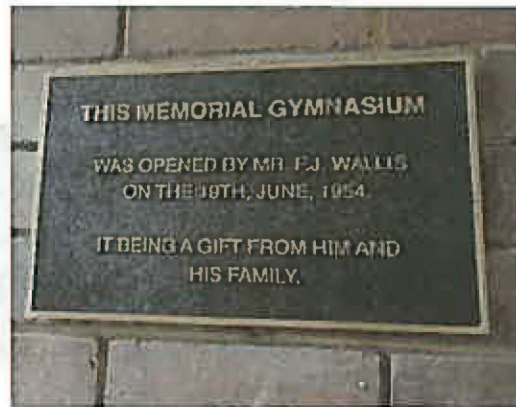


Figure 33: Memorial plaque near door to western elevation, Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium



Figure 34: Southern elevation and part of western elevation, Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium



Figure 35: 1990s Pottery Room (building No. 7) at eastern of Ethel B. Wallis Memorial Gymnasium (also Storeroom building 19 visible at right)



Figure 36: The southern elevation of the Gymnasium, with Pottery Room (7) and storeroom (19) at right



Figure 37: Interior, Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium, looking east from western door



Figure 38: Northern elevation of Gymnasium, with pool to north at right. Note modern awning over northern door.



Figure 39: Detail of northern doors to Gymnasium, with modern awning above.

Fairhaven, No. 3 Margaret Street (Building 6)

Fairhaven (originally named Youla) is a modest single storey Federation Queen Anne style brick house, constructed in 1907 as an investment for rental by barrister Tom Rolin. The house is asymmetrical, with a hipped and gabled terracotta tiled roof, which extends down over the front verandah, a roughcast stuccoed gable end facing the street, timber framed double hung windows, brick and roughcast stuccoed chimneys, and decorative timber fretwork and tessellated tiling to the front verandah.

There is a bullnose corrugated iron roofed verandah (presumably the "Sleepout" described in a 1921 sale notice for the house) now predominantly enclosed, along the western side of the house.

The house is surrounded by concreted and asphalted areas used for car parking. There are no garden elements or site features remaining from its use as a residence with the sole exception of the Canary Island date palm (element no. 15) to the west of the house, next to the tennis courts.

The site has a high metal fence to the street and is surrounded by late twentieth century apartment buildings to the east and north. The western part of the site contains two tennis courts.

Internally, the layout is fairly typical of a house of the period, with a central hallway with bedrooms opening to either side, and smaller service rooms to the rear. All interior doors are modern fire doors. Most ceilings appear to date from circa 1955, the time of the acquisition of

the house by the school, and are of fibrous paster with modern cornices. The fireplaces and surrounds have been removed with only one mantelpiece extant.

Several new openings have been created to facilitate school use over time and all of the earlier fitout from the rear rooms has been removed.

The building is in fair to poor condition overall and reflects its use for over 50 years as classrooms, storage and office spaces related to school use.



Figure 40: Fairhaven in its car park setting



Figure 41: South elevation of Fairhaven, with enclosed verandah at left



Figure 42: West elevation of side verandah enclosure



Figure 43: Detail, west elevation verandah, showing early timber posts and frieze in unenclosed section of the verandah



Figure 44: Rear view of Fairhaven, showing roller door at rear of west verandah enclosure, concrete ramp at rear



Figure 45: Front south-west corner of enclosed verandah, showing deteriorated guttering



Figure 46: Setting within car park at rear of house



Figure 47: Interior view, showing 1940s ceiling, one original marble mantelpiece



Figure 48: Interior detail, showing marble mantelpiece



Figure 49: Interior, showing room with 1940s ceiling, no mantelpiece to chimney-breast



Figure 50: Interior, front room with 1940s ceiling

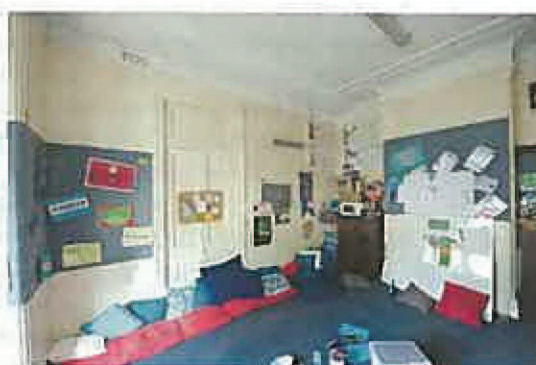


Figure 51: Interior, same front room, with 1940s ceiling, doors to enclosed side verandah, no mantelpiece to chimney-breast

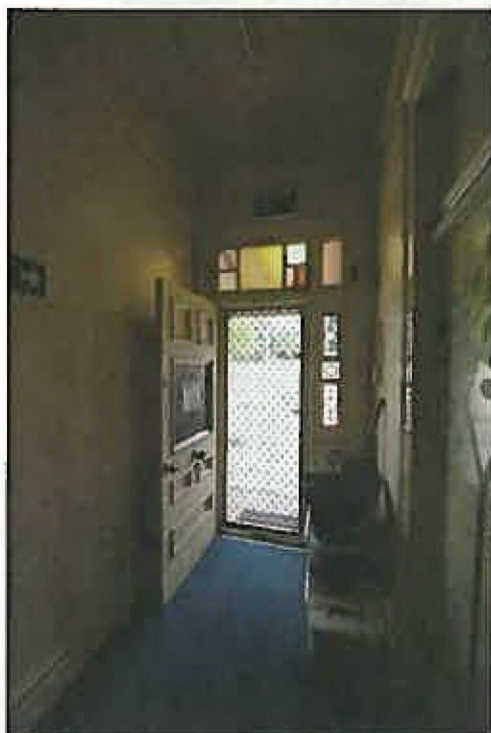


Figure 52: (Left) Front door, fanlight and hallway

Significant Landscape Elements (Elements 14-17)

A number of significant landscape elements were identified on the Meriden Senior Campus during the site visit as follows:

- 3 sets of cast iron gateposts along Redmyre Road (Element No. 14);
- Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) west of No. 3 Margaret Street (Element No. 15). This palm is on the Strathfield Significant Tree Register. The palm is likely to date from the period 1907 (when the house at No. 3 Margaret St was built) into the 1920s. This is the only remaining feature of the early setting of the house at No. 3 Margaret Street.
- 3 Ficus trees on the Margaret Street frontage of Turner House (Element No. 16). These trees may date from 1959, when Turner House was completed;
- Mature Cabbage tree palm (*Livingstonia Australis*) to the north of Wallis Hall (Element No. 17a). Figure 8 above – taken circa 1940 – indicates the cabbage tree palm is likely to have been planted in 1935 after the completion of Wallis Hall.
- Mature Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) (Element No. 17b). Note that Figure 9 above - taken circa 1940 - shows this pine in a fairly advanced state of growth, indicating it is a late 19th century or early 20th century tree planting on the site.



Figure 53: Cast iron gate posts to one of the three gateways from Redmyre Road appear early (19th century), though the gates and fencing are not. (Element No. 14 is the gateposts to the 3 pedestrian gateways from Redmyre Road).

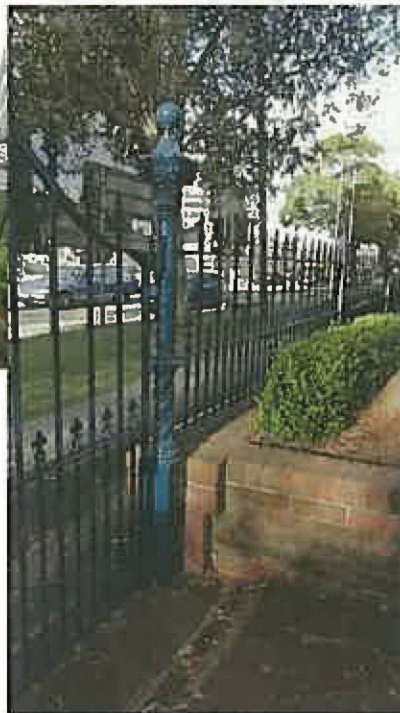


Figure 54: Detail of cast iron gatepost (part of Element No. 14)