



PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

Morton Herman considers the Presbyterian Manse in Bridge Road a fine example of Victorian Architecture with the two main features being its elegant barge boards and bay window. When completed in 1871 it was the residence of architect Edward Holloran. In 1871 "Ruessdale" as it was then known became the home of the first Presbyterian Minister to be appointed to The Glebe, Andrew Gardiner. The first service for Presbyterians resident in Glebe was held in the University Hotel on the corner of Glebe Road and Broadway in 1874 and in March 1879, due largely to the efforts of two Scots William Elphinstone and John Paxton, the Presbyterian Church was completed on a site almost opposite the University Hotel (now University Hall). In 1927 this church, designed by Thomas Rowe, was demolished and re-erected next to the Manse. The Manse was in fact one of the earliest buildings to appear along the toll route that the Pymont Bridge Company constructed from Pymont to Camperdown. The tolls imposed by the Company ranged from a farthing for sheep to 9d for a two horse chaise.

It is now known that a 3-4 storey longing house containing 215 rooms is proposed for the site now occupied by the Manse and church. This proposal will mean that almost 2/3 of the site will be covered. The land will be leased by the Presbyterian Church to a private developer.

HOSTEL REJECTED

Residents who wrote to Leichhardt Council protesting the application for a hostel in Darghan Street have received replies notifying disapproval of the application for the following reasons;

1. The area of the land was less than the minimum allowable for a multiple dwelling.
2. The proposed development was completely out of character with present development in the area
3. The site was considered unsuitable for such a concentration of residents next to a railway line.
4. Adequate provision for landscaping had not been made.
5. The proposal did not provide for adequate vehicle movement.

6. The aesthetic appearance of the proposed development would be unsatisfactory.

7. The proposed development would not be in the public interest.

The replies from council then ended with a sentence we have heard Leichhardt Council use a few times: "You are further advised that the Local Government Act 1919, as amended, contains no provision wherein residents of an area have to be notified of a proposal to erect a lodging house or hostel".

In one letter we are told that a development application is less than satisfactory and a hazard to the community, and that residents living next to the site of that development had no right to be forewarned of it.

Just whose interests are being considered?

CEMENT PLANT

As announced in a supplement to the last issue of this Bulletin, Council considered on the 4th May an application from Marley Australia Ltd. to erect a cement batching plant at 23/25 Federal Road. Council stated that it did not favour the plant by reason of its nature (noxious dust, noise, vibration), the traffic it would generate in the area, the proximity of a kindergarten in Jubilee Park directly opposite and the erection of this HEAVY industry in this predominantly residential area. However, because of the zoning of this area, it had no option but to forward the matter to the Minister for Local Government, Mr. P.H. Morton, to seek his concurrence in rejecting the application.

Further to this, a petition against the development, signed by 3,209 residents of Glebe, was received by Mr. J. A. Hall, private secretary to the Minister, on the 19th May. This was acknowledged by the Minister and referred, as a matter of course, to the State Planning Authority for an inquiry and a report.

A call has been made for letters objecting to the development to be sent directly to the Minister. Judging from the number of letters received to date, the response has been poor. So far less than twenty letters have been sent.

The tenuous nature of the situation cannot be stressed enough. The plant would be a disaster for Glebe. The lease has been offered to Marley by the Maritime Services Board and the Board in the past has rarely given ground on these issues. Correctly or not, the Board has also stated that this is the last site it can offer Marley. Further, since Marley is such a large concern, the extent of its influence can never be fully gauged.

The response to the petition was very good, but this is not enough. Letters to the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable P.H. Morton M.L.A., State Office Block, Phillip St., Sydney 2000 must be sent. A further suggestion is to send letters to the Minister of Environmental Control, Mr. Beale, since industry affecting residential areas has been specifically mentioned as a concern of his department. Also letters must be sent to the newspapers. Send copies of all correspondence to Sam Conlon, 42 Toxteth Rd. (660-5279) who will answer any queries you may have regarding this development.

It is imperative that each member of the Society write. No one can afford to leave it to others.

The Balmain Association has published a lavishly illustrated book entitled:

"BALMAIN IN TIME"

Copies can be obtained from The Glebe Society at \$1-75 each. Contact Sue Tzannes, 660-6485

council rounds

At recent Council meetings, Leichhardt Council have rejected many applications for development in Glebe. The main applications rejected in Glebe are:-

1. A 5-storey residential flat block at 211 Wigram Road.
2. A 3-storey youth hostel at 106-108 Dargan Street.
3. The addition of a block of six flats to an existing flat development at 2 Victoria Road.

It is to be hoped they keep up the good work until the State Planning Authority plan for Glebe is made known so that all development in Glebe can be controlled.

Several interesting points have arisen during the last month at Council. The first is the continued refusal to notify residents of an impending lodging house or hostel. The second point is the insistence on off-street parking for shops and restaurants. This seems to be effectively strangling all individual shop development in Glebe.

At the meeting of 1st June Council rejected an application for a Book and Gift Shop at 370 Glebe Point Road because of the lack of provision for off-street parking and this is only one of many. Perhaps Council are waiting for an "all-plastic, piped music, under-the-one-roof shopping arcade". And what will become of the corner shop then?

For Your Diary

On Saturday, 26th June, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a most interesting art show on display at Camden College, corner of Walsh Avenue and Hereford Street. There will be paintings for sale by various well-known artists, including Douglas Pratt. Lunch is available at a small charge and entry is free.

The next meeting of the History sub-committee will be held at Max Solling's, 17 Avona Ave., at 8 p.m.

Our annual celebration is imminent! The Glebe Society Birthday Party will be held this year on Thursday, 8th July, at the Weinkeller Restaurant in Pitt Street. Full details are on the leaflet enclosed with this Bulletin. Last year's party was a great success and we are sure that this year's will be every bit as enjoyable, so come along and eat, drink and be merry.

The next meeting of the Social Activities Group will be on Monday, 12th July, at Maureen Colman's, 48 Boyce Street.

The Planning Forum meets at David Potter's, 8 Gottenham Street on Sunday, July 4th at 8 p.m. Hear a progress planning report, some news (possibly) of the S.P.A. Glebe Study and discussion on lodging houses and cement plants. It's a forum so don't leave your own ideas at home.

Remember any member is welcome to come along to these meetings and functions. You may gain new insights into the area you live in.

membership

Miss J. Alison, James Anderson, Mr. Glen W. Baxter, Dr. G. M. Budd, Mr. & Mrs. E. Cancio, Mr. Brian Cobb, Mr. R. K. Christopher, Miss Margaret Davis, Miss Francis Gall, Glebe Primary School, Mrs. V. Green, Mr. D. E. Grieve, Mr. R. W. Henderson, Dr. & Mrs. D. C. Hunt, Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Jones, R.E. Larcombe & family, Mr. John Malcolm, Mr. George Pereira, Mr. R. Pryde, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ritchie, Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Shaw, Miss Jillian Stewart, Miss Diane Stobie, Mr. Steven Duncan Streimer, Mrs. S. Waterhouse, Miss E. Barry.

This month we welcome 30 new members to the Society. With a rapidly growing membership the target of 500 by the next Annual General Meeting is in sight - 175 to go.

The larger the membership the more effective the Society.

RENOVATING

If it's extra space you need, don't build in the verandahs! Nothing has spoiled the appearance of Glebe streets as much as the "ranching" of elegant balconies with fibro, brick and Cooper Louvres - all to gain less than 100 sq ft. of extra space.

Far more area can be gained by using the space in the roof. Done sympathetically, an attic will not spoil, and may enhance, the appearance of your house.

The simplest way to begin is to look at similar houses that have original attics. This should give some idea of the technical problems involved.

If the cost of dormer windows is too high, a simple conversion can be done using two or more skylights.

Spiral staircases look attractive, but are more space consuming and this could be important in a small house. Usually a single flight timber staircase is the simplest and cheapest solution.

When lining the rafters first install some insulating material (rock wool, fibreglass) or use a lining material such as cane-ite that has good insulating properties. By in-filling between the rafters, the rafters can be left exposed.

Even though it will be more expensive than building in verandahs, you will gain more than four times the space and create a room that could be the most desirable in the house.

STOP PRESS

The Glebe Society presents an evening of delightful music in historic St. John's Church.

Dr. Vincent Sheppard will be at the organ and harpsichord together with flute, violin and cello.

Tentative date will be Friday 30th July 8pm, but this is subject to confirmation.

Full details of the programme etc. will be published in the next bulletin.

civic design

MEETING: 31st May 1971

SUBJECT: Planning by Local Civic Societies

SPEAKERS: Bill Haesler (Balmain Association)
Eric Sandblom (Glebe Society)
Pat Thompson and
Don Gazzard (Paddington Society)
Dr. John Roseth (State Plann. Auth.)

Bill Haesler's contribution amounted almost to a cry of despair. Balmain has lost every major battle with the developers and Government authorities and they justifiably feel that Leichhardt Council is hostile to their Association and that no progress will be made until the existing council is removed.

Pat Thompson outlined the experiences of the Paddington Society - a success story if ever there was one - one that gives heart to the civic society movement. Yet despite this and a local council which we in Glebe would regard as co-operative, they have decided to put up a team for the next council elections so that they will have a voice in council and direct access to information that could affect their area.

Don Gazzard made the point that high rise does not give a significant increase in the density of a terrace area - so that after all the destruction and subsequent re-building nothing is gained and millions of dollars are poured down the drain.

Dr. John Roseth's contribution raised some interesting points:

- + Participation in planning by civic groups has only occurred recently.
- + Planning cannot be left only to civic groups, statutory planning must balance regional interests against local. Some conflict is inevitable, in which case the narrower interest should give way or suggest alternatives.
- + Civic groups can act as a generator of plans for their areas by prodding authorities into preparing plans.
- + The Glebe Society's outline plan provided a stimulus for the preparation of a Glebe Study which is now with Council.
- + After plans are prepared civic groups should be a testing ground - that is with their detailed knowledge they can suggest (or demand) changes or improvements.
- + If people in an area have no interest they cannot expect others to be interested.
- + The importance of civic groups will grow tremendously.
- + Respect for proposals made by such groups will be directly proportional to their objectivity.

Speakers from the floor during discussion raised the problem of areas that are neglected due to lack of civic groups and suggested that the best solution was "advocacy" planning. This means planners coming into areas to provide guidance and assistance to residents to enable them to plan for themselves. Much emphasis was placed on the necessity for maximum participation of people in planning and controlling their environment.

As for direct participation in local councils, this question was raised in Bulletin No. 3 and members were asked their opinion. If you feel strongly, one way or the other, please let us know in writing or by ringing 660-6593.



THE ANCHORAGE

This two storey sandstone villa, just off Mary Street and fronting Rozelle Bay, was built about 1878 by Alfred Peterson. The neighbourhood of Leichhardt, Mary and Stewart Streets was described in an auction advertisement appearing in the Sydney Morning Herald in the 1870's as being "rich in Italian scenery and possessing many advantages not the least is its delightful society, sea bathing in the summer, good water, water carriage to and from Sydney, an easy walk to town or omnibus if you are fatigued, a neat and well attended Wesleyan chapel not far off and in fact everything which can be esteemed favourable to the comfort and pleasure of a respectable family".

The land on which The Anchorage stood was purchased in 1970 by Parkes Developments Pty. Ltd., and the building was demolished in January this year.

The Civic Design Society's latest publication;

LOCAL
CIVIC GROUPS \$1:50
& PLANNING

is now available from

The Glebe Society.
(orders: 060 0593)
Contents include case studies of; Hunter's Hill
The Paddington Society
The Balmain Association
The Glebe Society

MISCELLANY

Why do municipalities continue to encompass more and more suburbs, growing into complex giants against which individuals despair of being heard?

The Glebe, for example, has a large enough population under the Local Government Act and that old Town Hall has many years left in it. We could share services with other councils and not be looked on as the unwanted new adoption of Big Daddy Leichhardt. It was only 1948 when Glebe lost its independence.

In Balmain's narrow streets residents are being told not to park their cars so that container trucks can pass - or else!

In the United States there is a growing band of "advocate" architects and planners. They protest that their profession concentrates on "work for the corporate state" at the expense of residents, particularly in poor and ghetto areas. They work closely with these residents both to build anew and to fight city and state planning agencies with "counterplans" of their own, giving the poor, in effect, a professional voice.

The sketches used in this Bulletin have been kindly donated to the Glebe Society by the artist George Mackay and are the first in a series on Glebe.

So Kelley's Bush in Hunters Hill is lost. The developers have seized one of Sydney's last remaining scraps of wilderness to build more boxes. What next Mr. Developer? Reclaim Sydney Harbour?

The President of The Royal Australian Institute of Architects Mr. R. A. Gilling, in a recent letter to The Glebe Society says, "Somehow the ordinary person in the street must be made aware that he personally has a responsibility in environmental matters and that he can do something about it by demanding proper action from his elected representatives."

Tokyo has been forced to evict 2,000 of its factories from the city to protect residents from the fouled environment. Sydney however continues to allow industry to creep ever closer to the city.

The local Labor Leagues and M.L.A. Sloss have thrown their weight behind the campaign against the Marley Cement Plant.

A talk on the History of Annandale to World War One - with slides and photographs - will be held at the Annandale Council Chambers, Johnstone Street at 9.00 p.m. Tuesday 22nd June.