

**VILLA ALBA MUSEUM LANDSCAPE RECONSTRUCTION**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS PHASE 2**

**A report to Villa Alba Museum Inc and Heritage Victoria**



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- Jessie Serle (VAM Inc Project Manager)
- James Broadbent (VAM Inc heritage landscape consultant)
- Field Assistants Terry Evans, Alan Mallaby, Steve Pollack and Boheme Rawoteea.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

VAM Inc          Villa Alba Museum Incorporated

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report documents the results of archaeological excavations conducted within the grounds of Villa Alba in Kew. Archaeological testing was commissioned by the Villa Alba Museum (hereafter referred to as VAM Inc) Management Committee as part of the design development stage of a proposed landscape reconstruction. The project was directed by Maddy Atkinson in consultation with James Broadbent (landscape architect for VAM Inc). The field team consisted of two field assistants, undergraduate archaeology students from La Trobe University, and a community volunteer. Archaeological excavations took place between Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

### 1.1 Study area

Villa Alba is a 19<sup>th</sup> century property on the corner of Walmer Street and Nolan Avenue in Kew (Figure 1.1). Both statutory and non-statutory authorities have acknowledged the historical significance of the property. Heritage listings are as follows:

- H605 Victorian Heritage Register
- D/No 014210 Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission)
- B1385 National Trust (VIC)
- #158 City of Boroondara Heritage Overlay

Under the provisions of the Heritage Act 1995, it is an offence to excavate or disturb this site without a 'Permit to carry out works or activities to a place or object on the Victoria Heritage Register' (Pursuant to Section 67 of the *Heritage Act 1995*)

Areas identified as requiring archaeological testing were located to the north, west, east and south of the main building (Figure 3.1).

### 1.2 Rationale

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken at this time to answer specific questions about the presence, nature and location of remains of built features known to exist in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Villa Alba landscape. This archaeological evidence will contribute to the development of a landscape design for the reconstruction of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Villa Alba garden and surrounds.

### 1.3 Project aims

The broad aim of subsurface testing at Villa Alba was to determine the presence, location and depth below current ground surface of archaeological remains relating to a number of landscape features identified in historical plans, photographs, survey field books and aerial photographs. This information would then be used by the landscape architect in the development of a design which approximates the 1880s/1890s landscape of Villa Alba.

Specific aims are listed below. See Figure 3.1 for the location of areas to be tested.

#### Area 2A

- determine the presence of a former path east of the current fence line
- if the path is present, determine surface treatment, depth below surface and distance from the fence line.

### Area 3

- determine the presence, depth below surface and surface treatment of paths and beds related to a former parterre garden immediately south of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the presence, depth below surface and surface treatment of paths and beds related to a former parterre garden southeast of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the location of fence posts relating to the former gate on the western boundary.

### Area 7A

- determine the presence and depth below surface of remains of a two-seater toilet block and surrounding octagonal structure, currently under concrete paving stones
- determine the surface treatment of paths/areas surrounding the octagonal structure.

### Area 7B

- determine the depth below surface and surface treatment of the area north of the former conservatory and south of the former fish pond.

### Area 7C

- remove concrete to determine the presence, length and width of the footprint of a set of stairs
- if footprint is present, determine the relationship between the foot of the stairs and the eastern retaining wall.

### Area 7D

- determine the presence and depth below surface of gravel between the former conservatory and the west wall of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the presence and location of remains of a former hedge near the southwest corner of the Villa Alba mansion.

## 1.4 Consultation

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, the archaeologist spoke with James Broadbent (landscape architect for VAM Inc) and Jessie Serle (project manager, VAM Inc) to discuss the scope of works, methodology, timelines, project requirements and site access.

In accordance with the Heritage Act 1995, a permit to conduct an archaeological excavation was obtained from Heritage Victoria prior to the commencement of fieldwork (Appendix 3). A review of the history of land use on the site indicated that the presence of Aboriginal cultural remains would be highly unlikely and therefore no applications were lodged with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria or the relevant Aboriginal tribal authority.

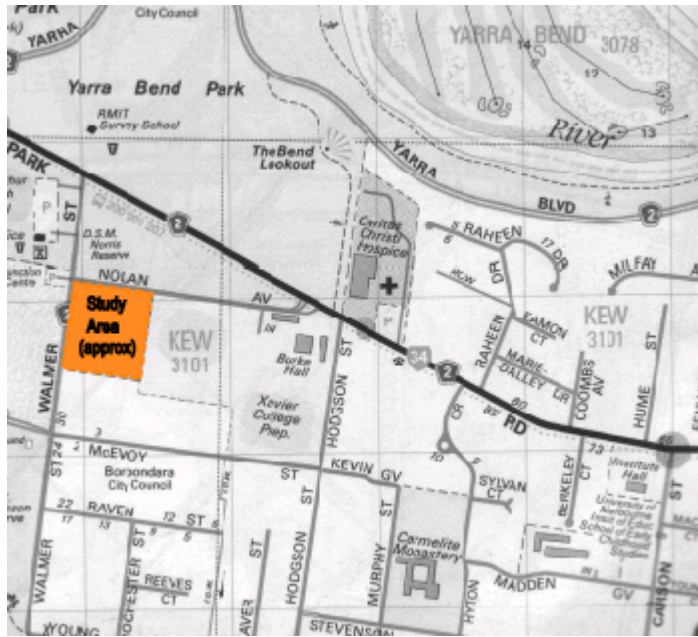


Figure 1.1 Location of Villa Alba and study area (approximate) (Melways Map 2D G11)

## 2.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 2.1 Site ownership

The following summary of site ownership is taken from the Villa Alba Conservation Analysis (Sanderson 1989) and inclusions recommended by J.Serle to be made to the draft Conservation Management Plan by Hubbard and Riddett (1998). A large proportion of this summary was previously presented in Atkinson (2002: 8-10).

1852 - 1855	Ellen Miller
1855 - 1860	John Hodgson
1860 - 1862	James McEvoy,
1862 - 1918	James McEvoy the Younger and William McEvoy as trustees for Anna Maria Greenlaw (construction of Villa Alba buildings)
1918 - 1950	Samuel and/or Esther Fripp
1950 - 1974	Royal Women's Hospital (construction of hospital buildings)
1974- 1991	Mount Royal Hospital
1991-2001	St George's Hospital and Inner Eastern Geriatric Service
Aug 2001 – present	Unregistered pending settlement between St George's Hospital and Inner Eastern Geriatric Service and St George's Health Service Ltd on 16/5/2002 (Society of Jesus representing Xavier College, contracted purchaser, and VAM Inc, manager under lease of house and part of land by City of Boroondara until final settlement with Xavier College in December 2002/January 2003).

### 2.2 Land use history

The house currently standing at Villa Alba had been built by 1884. This house was an extension of a previous residence, Studley Villa, which had been located on part of the same site. No information about the landscape prior to 1883 is available. A photograph taken in 1895 shows a lattice summer house to the southeast of the house, and two fences (one wire hare and rabbit-proof fence, one iron) bordering the garden on the east and south sides. By 1911 landscape features on the property included garden beds and a summer house to the south, a conservatory, fish pond and toilet within an octagonal enclosure to the east, and two gate lodges to the north and a billiard room (Adshead and McQuie, 2001). Between this time and 1945 the main changes to the landscape were in the form of new plantings, including a hedge, palm tree and vegetables (Hawker, J. 2/4/2001).

With the property passing into the hands of the Royal Women's Hospital in 1950 came the construction of substantial buildings immediately to the north and south of the Villa Alba mansion (see Figure 3.1 for the location of hospital building outlines). Above ground evidence of garden plantings, gate lodges and the summer house was removed in the process. The hospital outbuildings were demolished in early 2001 (J.Serle 2002 pers.comm). Figure 2.1 shows the position of the hospital buildings in relation to Villa Alba in 1953. Following the demolition of the hospital buildings, Douglas Partners (10/102001) undertook a contamination assessment of the site for Xavier College. Low level lead contamination to was found to a depth of 0.4m in the lawn northeast of Area 2A and at one spot southeast of the house. The lawn area was excavated to a depth of 100mm and new fill introduced. Lead contamination to a depth of 0.6m was also detected in the northern area of the site in the vicinity of former gatehouses (exact north-south line of contamination testing unknown).



The demolition of the hospital buildings and the subsequent use of the site as a construction depot by contractors employed by Xavier College from early 2001 to early 2002 represent significant sources of potential disturbance to the land surface in areas north and south of the mansion. Temporary site offices were erected to the north of the mansion. It is not clear to what extent the rubble from hospital demolition was cleared from the site. However it is known that in order to facilitate the passage of heavy machinery (cranes and trucks) across the site, fill was added to areas north, south and southeast of the mansion. Whereas the deposit had previously been displaced by vehicles becoming bogged (particularly in the southern area), it was then subject to considerable compaction. Up to 12 inches of this fill was later "sliced off the top" to create more level surfaces, and a noticeable segment of surface deposit has been removed from the southeastern corner of the site. In early 2002 approximately 15cm of topsoil was added to the area north of the mansion. In April 2002 this topsoil was removed to allow the excavation and disposal of underlying contaminated deposits. This procedure was monitored by an archaeologist (George 2002).

### **Summary**

Between 1883 and 1950 changes to site use consisted largely of the addition of small outbuildings, landscape features and garden beds. Since 1950 the land has been subject to practices potentially harmful to the preservation of archaeological remains such as:

- building construction and demolition
- the installation of subsurface services
- the introduction of fill
- vehicular access (displacement and compaction of deposits)
- removal of deposits at varying levels from areas to the north and south of the site.

The northern area of the site is currently not in use and has been seeded with grass. The southern area has until recently served as access for machinery and vehicles associated with the construction of the Xavier College Early Learning Centre to the east.

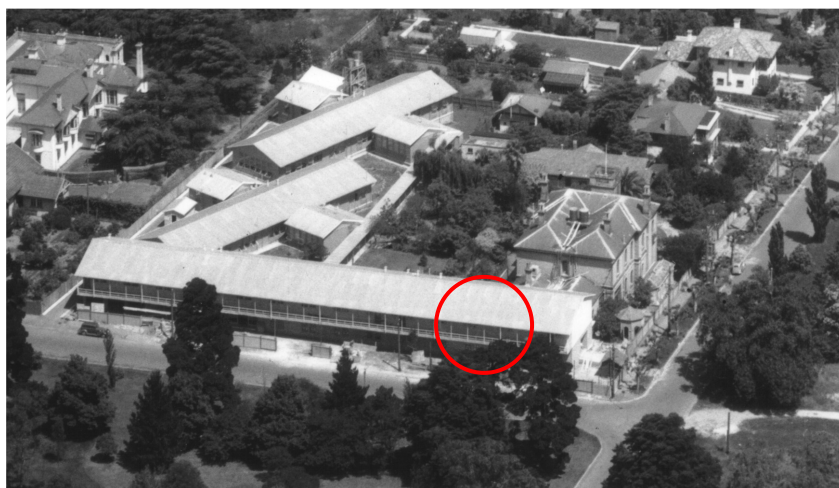


Figure 2.1 Villa Alba and hospital buildings, aerial view looking south east, 13/11/1953. Note toilet block in red circle. (Source: VAM Inc)

### **2.3 Previous archaeological investigations**

Test excavations were carried out in the southwest corner of Villa Alba by Smith *et al* in 2001 (Smith and Jamieson, 2001). Testing produced archaeological evidence of late 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape features and indicated that similar remains could be well-preserved across other areas of the site.

Additional test excavations were carried out in April 2002 by the author (Atkinson 2002). Testing produced archaeological evidence of gravel paths, postholes belonging to the remains of a summer house, possible parterre garden beds and associated wooden edging tiles.

During archaeological monitoring of mechanical excavations in the northern area of the property, brick footings of a former gatehouse and fence post bases along the northern fence line were identified (George 2002:7-8).

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Review of site history and previous archaeological studies

The historical review consisted of an examination of the following documents:

- sections of the Villa Alba Conservation Management Plan/ Conservation Analysis
- extracts from minutes of VAM Inc meetings relevant to the history of the site
- historical photographs, plans and surveyor's field records
- archaeological reports (Atkinson 2002, George 2002, Smith *et al* 2001).

#### 3.2 Mechanical trenching

A backhoe was used for mechanical trenching in a number of areas of the site. In Area 2A a test pit (trench A) was dug between the existing fence and concrete path. The surface beneath the existing concrete path (trench B) was scraped to determine the presence of an earlier path. The surface of Area 3 to the south east of the mansion (trench D) was scraped in order to determine the presence and depth below surface of garden features. Three trenches were dug in Area 3 in front and south west of the mansion (trenches E, F, G). Trench locations and dimensions are indicated in Figure 3.1 and Table 1. Deposits were allocated context numbers and described (Appendix 2). Trenches were described, drawn in plan and section and photographed. Features were described and photographed. Depths below surface were recorded. Artefacts were noted and the trenches were backfilled at the completion of fieldwork (Plate 4.9).

#### 3.3 Hand excavated trenches

Eight trenches were excavated by hand, ranging in size from a narrow slit trench (B) in Area 2A to a broad area excavation in Area 7A. Depths ranged from 8cm to 30cm. The location of each trench was recorded in relation to fixed points on the Villa Alba house (Figure 3.1). Deposits were allocated context numbers and described (Appendix 2). Trenches were described, drawn in plan and section and photographed. Features were described and photographed. Depths below surface were recorded. Artefacts were noted and the trenches were backfilled at the completion of fieldwork (Plate 4.9). Trench dimensions are indicated in Table 1.

Area	Trench	Dimensions (m)	Depth (cm)	Orientation
2A	A	2 x 1.3	40 – 70	E - W
	B	2 x 0.9 (slit 0.2 x 0.9)	15 – 30	N - S
	C	1.2 x 0.9	15.5	N - S
3	D	~20 x 11	3 – 15	E - W
	E	1.5 x ~24	10 – 30	NE – SW
	F	1.5 x 3.5	5 – 30	E – W
	G	3 x 4	38	N – S
7A	H	~6 x 5	10 – 15	N - S
7B	I	6 x 0.3	12 – 20	E – W
7C	J	2.5 x 1.8	22	N – S
7D	K	1.4 x 0.3	8	E – W
	L	1.4 x 0.4	8	E – W
	M	2.4 x 0.5	12	E – W

Table 1. Summary of trenches and test pits excavated in each area.

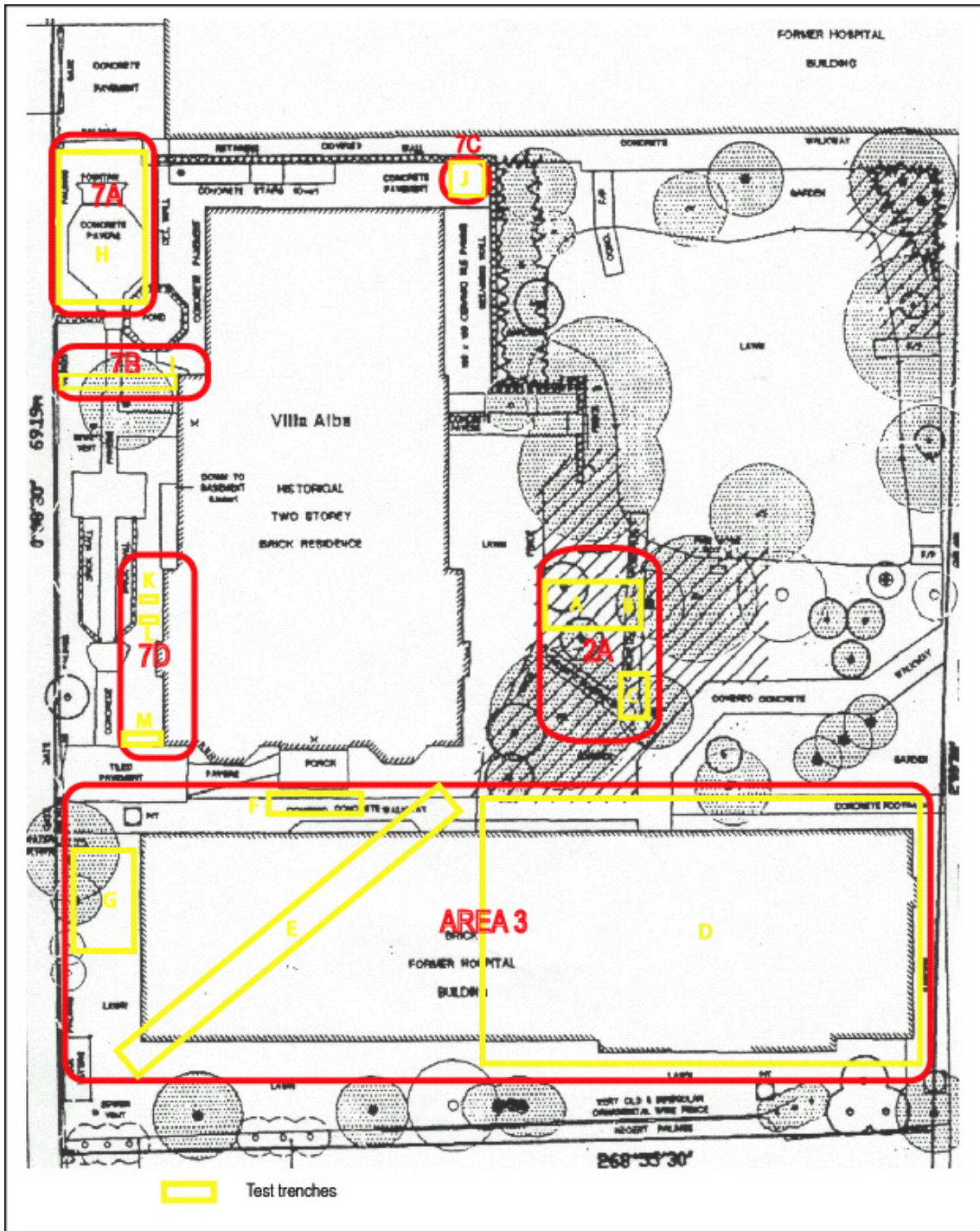


Figure 3.1 Location of excavated trenches.

## 4.0 RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

This section presents the results of the test excavations and preliminary interpretations of the features and deposits recovered.

### 4.1 Area 2A

Area 2A was located to the east of the Villa Alba house. The aims of archaeological testing in area 2A were to:

- determine the presence of a former path east of the current fence line
- if the path is present, determine surface treatment, depth below surface and distance from the fence line.

#### *Trench A*

A test trench was mechanically dug from the east of the metal fence to the west side of the current concrete path. No evidence of a path was observed in this area.

#### *Trench B*

A section of concrete adjacent to the east side of Trench A was removed and a slit trench dug across the underlying path (trench B). A layer of gravel embedded in a pink/orange matrix (context 11) consistent with a path was noted in the southern section approximately 2cm beneath the concrete. See Figure 4.1 for section drawing.

#### *Trench C*

Another section of concrete was removed in the vicinity of the junction of two historically known paths further to the south and the deposits excavated by hand. A similar layer of gravel in a pink/orange matrix was exposed (contexts 21, ?22). The layer had been disturbed by tree roots, bioturbation and the laying of a water pipe (context 23), and it was not possible to determine its original width or orientation. The path was located 5.38 metres due east of the existing metal fence, and 15.5 centimetres below the surface of the existing concrete path to the north. See Figure 4.2 for plan.

The results of testing in Area 2A are as follows:

- A gravel path was located east of the existing metal fence, beneath the existing concrete path on the surface.
- The remains of a gravel path were located in the vicinity of the junction of two historically known paths 5.38 m east of the existing fence and 15.5 cm below the surface of the existing concrete path. Disturbance by tree roots and the laying of a water pipe precluded determination of the original boundaries of the path.

### 4.2 Area 3

Area 3 was located across the southern end of the Villa Alba property. The aims of archaeological testing in area 3 were to:

- determine the presence, depth below surface and surface treatment of paths and beds related to a former parterre garden southeast of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the presence, depth below surface and surface treatment of paths and beds related to a former parterre garden immediately south of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the location of fence posts relating to the former gate on the western boundary.

#### *Trench D*

Mechanical scraping across the area to the south east of the Villa Alba mansion indicated that the north, east, south and parts of the centre and west had been subject to considerable disturbance and no evidence of the former parterre was observable in these areas. However a substantial north-south section of wood-lined path was recovered, in addition to a small section of wood-lined path near the eastern boundary (see Figure 4.3). The surface of the path consisted of extremely fine white gravel embedded in a pink-orange matrix (context 31) lined with the remains of vertically placed wooden edging tiles (context 32) of which only the cross-section is now visible due to previous disturbance of the site. The paths were recovered between 3 and 5 centimetres below the current ground surface and were between 1.2 and 1.3 metres wide. The locations of the paths were recorded in relation to the mansion and the original looped-wire fence along the southern boundary, and preserved *in situ* by tracing the outline with blue rope and fixing it in place with staples. The area was then backfilled.

#### *Trench E*

A diagonal trench (Figure 3.1) dug across the area immediately south of the Villa Alba mansion revealed an expanse of dark organic soil (context 41) consistent with a wide garden bed located across the centre of the trench. A single intact timber edging tile was also recovered from the fill in the north section of the trench. However due to considerable disturbance to the north and south no evidence of paths or of a definitive garden border was observed.

#### *Trench F*

A trench dug across the south face of the mansion tower (Figure 3.1) revealed a small remnant patch of path. The location and width of the path were consistent with plans of the former parterre (Broadbent pers.comm). The path consisted of fine white gravel embedded in a pink-orange matrix of crushed rock (context 51).

#### *Trench G*

A trench dug across the western entry produced no evidence relating to former structures or gate features (Figure 3.1). This area was highly disturbed and consisted of highly compact rocky clay fill and demolition rubble (context 60) overlying natural clay.

The results of testing in Area 3 are as follows:

- Two substantial sections of garden paths and the remains of edging tiles were located between 3 and 5 cm below the current ground surface to the southeast of the Villa Alba mansion. The paths were between 120 and 130 cm wide. The remainder of the area was highly disturbed.
- An area of soil consistent with a garden bed was located in the centre of the area immediately south of the Villa Alba mansion, and an intact wooden edging tile was recovered from the northern edge. The remainder of the area was highly disturbed and no garden paths or borders were observed.
- No evidence relating to former structures or gate features was recovered in the vicinity of the western boundary.

### 4.3 Area 7A

Area 7A was located between the western property boundary and a retaining wall near the northwest end of the Villa Alba mansion. The aims of archaeological testing in area 7A were to:

- determine the presence of remains of a two-seater toilet block and surrounding octagonal structure
- determine the surface treatment of paths/areas surrounding the octagonal structure.

#### *Trench H*

Trench H refers to the excavation of an area measuring 6 x 5 m in the vicinity of a historically known toilet block (see Figure 4.4).

The existing surface between the western fence and a retaining wall in the east consisted of concrete tiles (context 70) bordered by garden beds. The removal of these tiles revealed a level surface consisting of an octagonal outline of red tiles (context 72) with a rectangle of concrete in the centre (context 73). The red tiles appeared to be similar to those dating to the period of site use as a hospital. The area between the concrete rectangle and red tiles was covered in 'crazy paving', or irregularly shaped pieces of concrete laid in random fashion and bonded with cement mortar (context 74). A number of large triangular and rectangular pieces of marble (context 130) were recovered at this level from around the perimeter of the tiled and concreted area. These paving layers were also removed.

Approximately 15 cm below the modern surface, nine postholes relating to the remains of an octagonal structure were recovered in the north, northwest and south (context 79). Postholes were spaced at intervals of approximately 50 and 70 cm. No postholes were visible along the projected east or west boundaries of the octagon. In the centre of the octagonal outline were the remains of a possible brick structure. A substantial rectangular brick outline (three brick widths across) appeared to be divided into two chambers (context 82) filled with a clay deposit, the odour of which suggested that it contained contents of a human biological origin (context 77). Deposits within the rectangular outline were not excavated as this task was beyond the conditions of the Heritage Victoria permit and the scope of the brief. However, artefacts from the fill lying under the concrete paving blocks and overlying the brick outline (context 80) were retained for analysis should the structure be subject to archaeological investigation in the future. Additional bricks (context 81) postdating those found in the rectangular foundations were located adjacent to and on top of the foundations, including a gully trap on the western border (context 75). These bricks probably represent modifications or repairs carried out on the structure in years following its original construction. A small section of gravel embedded in a compact surface was recovered outside the southeast corner of the octagonal structure, consistent with a path (context 84). No evidence of a threshold path was recovered at the north entry of the octagonal structure.

The results of testing in Area 7A are as follows:

- Brick foundations consistent with the remains of a two-seater toilet block were located under two layers of concrete paving.
- Nine postholes consistent with an octagonally-shaped structure were located at the same level as toilet block foundations in the north, northwest and south.
- A small section of white gravel located outside the projected boundary of the octagonal structure may indicate a path or type of surface treatment.
- No evidence of a threshold path was recovered at the north entry of the octagonal structure.

#### **4.4 Area 7B**

Area 7B was located between the western boundary of the property and the Villa Alba mansion, immediately south of the former fish pond (see Figure 3.1). The aims of archaeological testing in area 7B were to:

- determine the depth below surface and surface treatment of the area north of the former conservatory and south of the former fish pond.

##### *Trench I*

A slit trench was dug from the west face of the mansion to the western property boundary (see Figure 4.5). The base of the centre and west of the trench was lined with alternating reddish and pale yellow tiles (context 95) consistent in materials and patterning with original tiles found on the east side of the mansion. A section of tiling appeared to have been patched with more modern red tiles similar to those found in 7A (context 72). The tiles were located between 13 and 18 cm below the current ground surface and were in reasonable condition although lying on an undulating surface due to the action of nearby tree roots. In the west the tiles were overlaid by topsoil (context 92); in the centre, by sand and concrete paving tiles (contexts 90, 91); and in the east by two layers of concrete underlying topsoil (contexts 93, 94). It was not clear whether the tiles continued under the concrete layers to the west face of the mansion.

The results of testing in Area 7B are as follows:

- Alternating red and yellow tiles consistent with those found on the east side of the mansion were recovered 13 to 18 cm below the current ground surface.

#### **4.5 Area 7C**

Area 7C was located between the northeast corner of the Villa Alba mansion and the junction of the northern and eastern retaining wall (Figure 3.1). The aims of archaeological testing in area 7C were to:

- remove concrete to determine the presence, length and width of the footprint of a set of stairs
- if footprint is present, determine the relationship between the foot of the stairs and the eastern retaining wall.

##### *Trench J*

A rectangle was cut into the existing concrete slab (context 100) using the services of a professional concrete cutter. The underlying deposit consisted of orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble (context 101) and was excavated to a depth of 22 cm with no features observed apart from a terracotta service pipe (context 102). This area had been subject to considerable disturbance and no evidence of a stair footprint was recovered.

The results of testing in Area 7C are as follows:

- No evidence of a stair footprint was recovered and therefore it was not possible to determine the relationship between the foot of the stairs and the eastern retaining wall.



#### 4.6 Area 7D

Area 7D was located between the former conservatory and the southwest face of the Villa Alba mansion (Figure 3.1). The aims of archaeological testing in area 7D were to:

- determine the presence and depth below surface of gravel between the former conservatory and the west wall of the Villa Alba mansion
- determine the presence and location of remains of a former hedge near the southwest corner of the Villa Alba mansion.

##### *Trenches K and L*

Two east-west slit trenches were dug between the former conservatory and the west wall of the Villa Alba mansion, 1.10 m apart. The stratigraphy in each trench was the same. Beneath a layer of vegetation and topsoil (contexts 110, 111) a loose layer of soil containing white gravel (context 112) overlying a layer of white gravel in a compact surface (context 113) was recovered at the west end of each trench adjacent to the east face of the conservatory wall. These gravel layers are consistent with the remains of a path running north-south adjacent to the conservatory wall. The path fragments were 68 and 72 centimetres wide respectively, located 8 cm below the current ground surface. They did not extend to the west face of the mansion. See Figure 4.6.

##### *Trench M*

An east-west slit trench was dug adjacent to the southwest corner of the Villa Alba mansion, north of an existing concrete path. Beneath a shallow layer of vegetation and topsoil (contexts 120, 121) the centre of the trench was dominated by a square of compact dull orange clay with embedded gravel (context 122) which extended to the north and south boundaries of the trench, located 68 centimetres from the mansion (see Figure 4.7). This location is consistent with that of the path remnants recovered between the conservatory and the mansion.

Only two holes that could be interpreted as planting holes were observed, both located approximately 35 centimetres north of the south-west corner of Villa Alba, 1.4 metres apart. In the absence of other evidence these holes cannot be interpreted as the remains of a hedge with any confidence.

The results of testing in Area 7D are as follows:

- A gravel surface consistent with a path was located adjacent to the east face of the conservatory at a depth of 8 cm below the current ground surface. The gravel section was 68 to 72 cm in width. The area between the gravel and the west face of the Villa Alba mansion appeared to have no treatment apart from topsoil.
- The path located in trenches K and L appears to continue further south.
- Two circular holes were located in an east-west line 35 cm north of the southwest corner of the Villa Alba mansion, however additional evidence would be required to support an interpretation of these as the remains of a hedge.

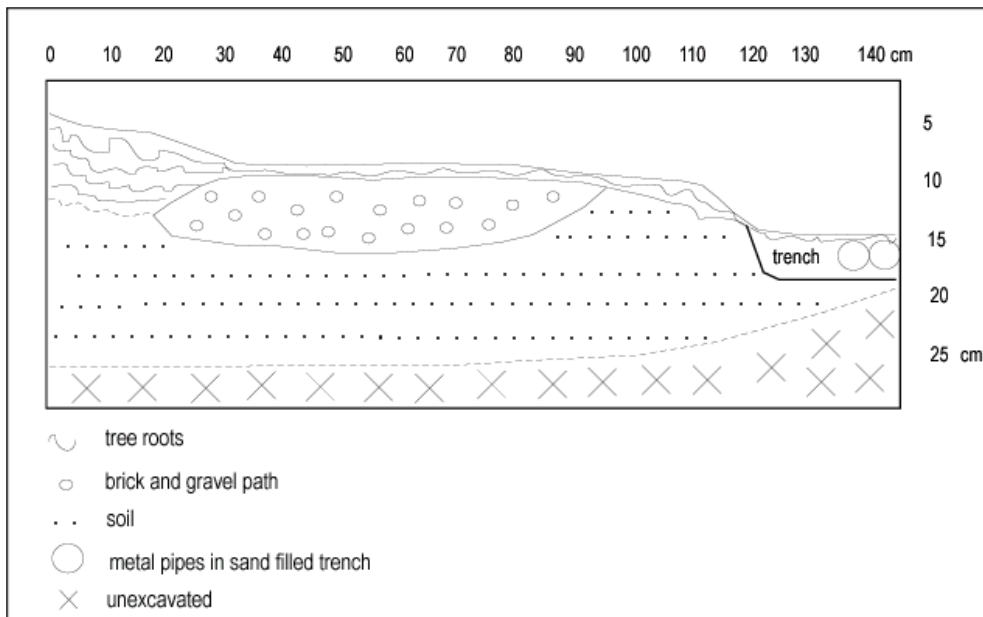


Figure 4.1. Area 2A Trench B, south section.

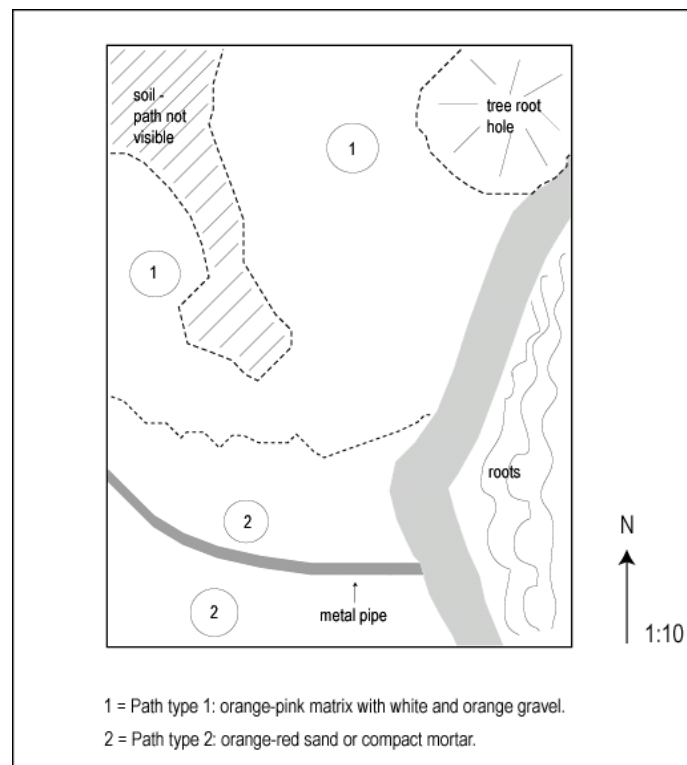


Figure 4.2. Area 2A Trench C, plan view.

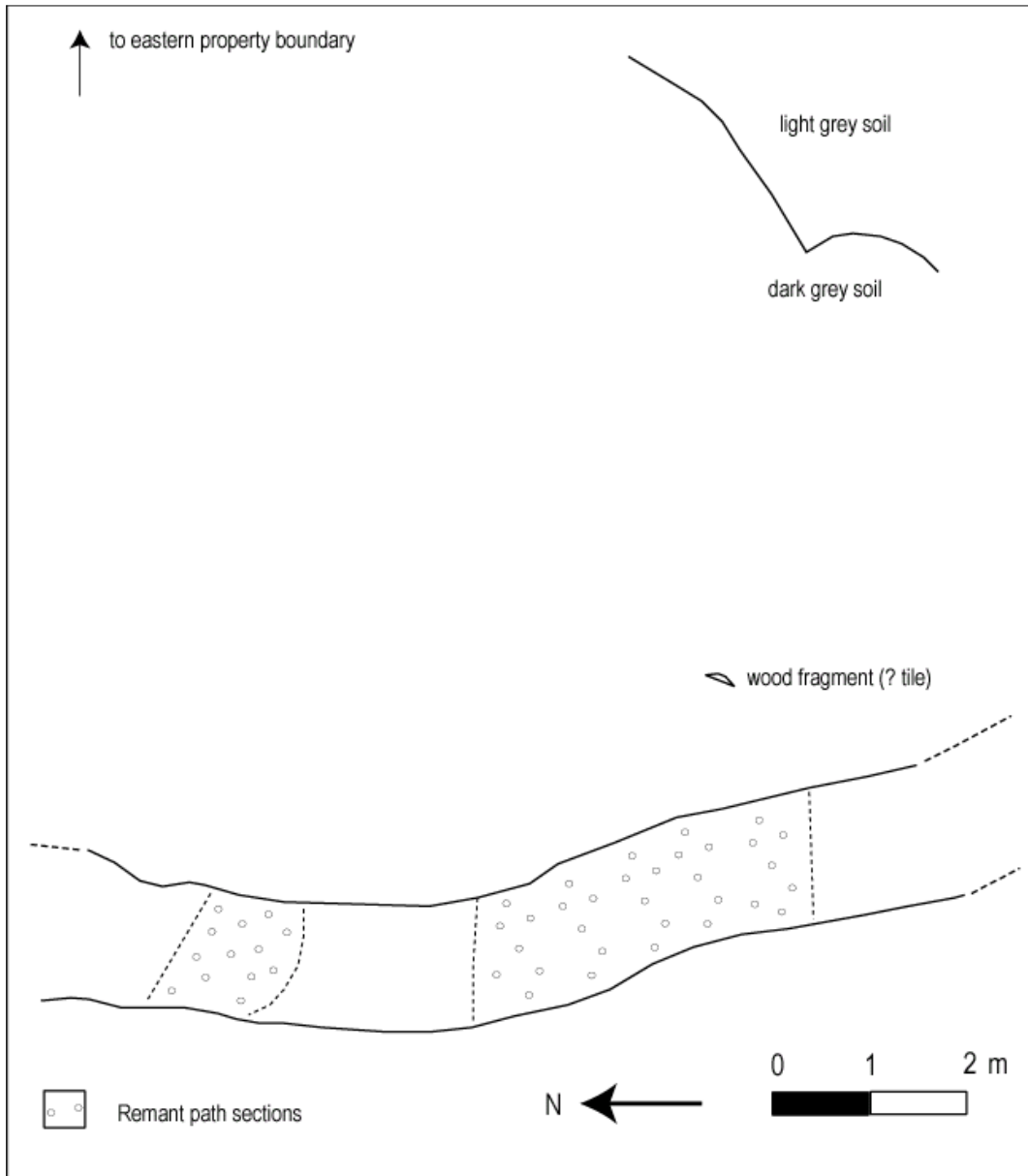


Figure 4.3. Area 3 Trench D. Wood-lined garden paths.

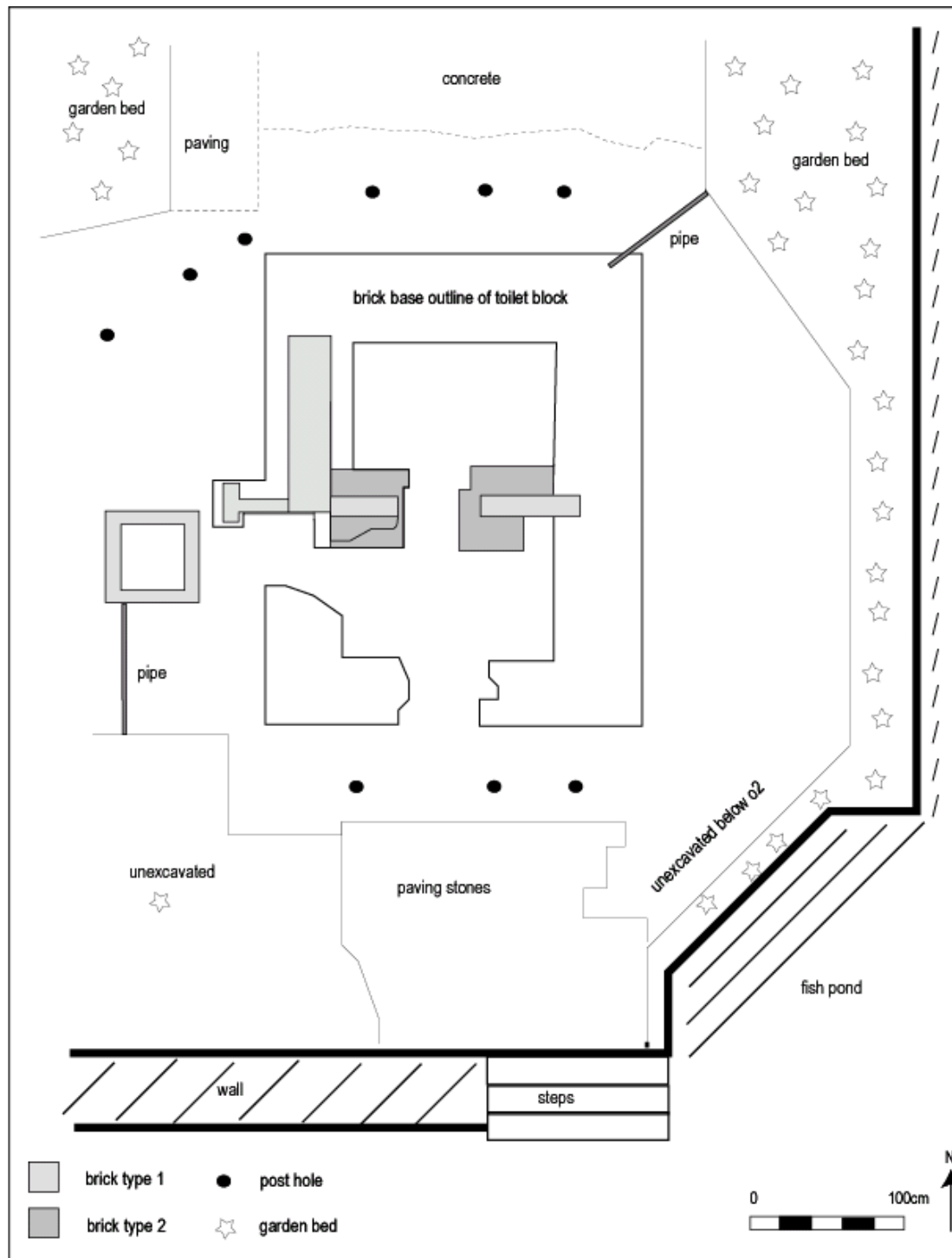


Figure 4.4. Area 7A Trench H. Toilet block, plan view.

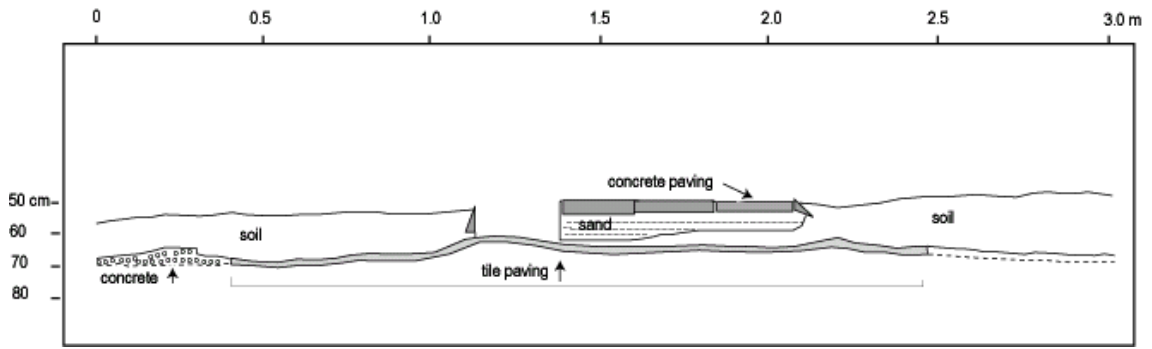


Figure 4.5. Area 7B Trench I, south section.

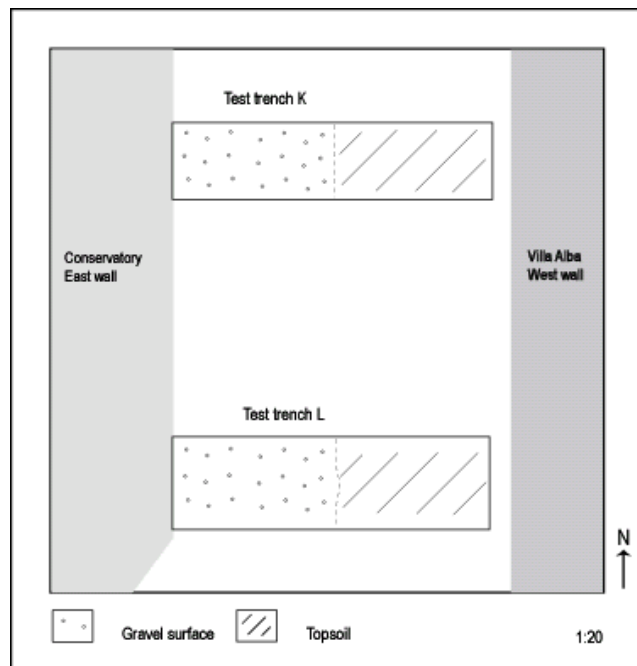


Figure 4.6. Area 7D Trenches K and L, plan view.

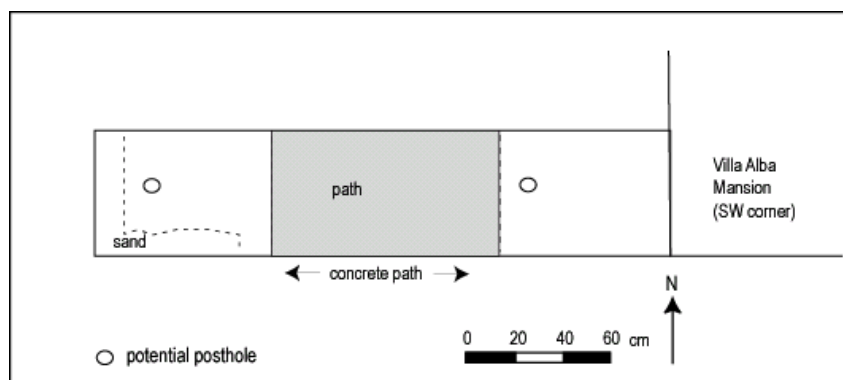


Figure 4.7. Area 7D Trench M, plan view.

## 5.0 DISCUSSION

The broad aim of subsurface testing at Villa Alba was to determine the presence, location and depth below current ground surface of archaeological remains relating to a number of landscape features which had been identified in historical documents. Excavations in parts of Areas 2A, 3, 7A, 7B, and 7D have demonstrated that despite a history of changing land use and considerable surface disturbance at Villa Alba, evidence of late 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape features has been preserved in certain places across the site. This evidence was identified at depths of between 3cm and 30cm below the current ground surface.

Archaeological evidence of earlier paths was recovered in two places in Area 2A. While it was not possible to determine the junction of a north-south and east-west path due to disturbance, the evidence indicates that the north-south section of path lies almost directly under the concrete path on the current ground surface. The path treatment of white gravel in a pink-orange matrix was similar to that observed in Area 3 (Plate 1).

The recovery of sections of wood-lined path in Area 3 was particularly useful as the 19<sup>th</sup> century design of the parterre in this area is not well documented in historical records. In Figure 5.1 the archaeological evidence has been overlaid onto a c1945 aerial photograph as a tentative "test of fit" (the placement is conjectural only and should be reviewed by the Villa Alba landscape architect). The recovery of these landscape features provides an indication of surface treatment, evidence of wooden edging tiles, and an original surface level for future garden reconstruction (Plates 2, 3).

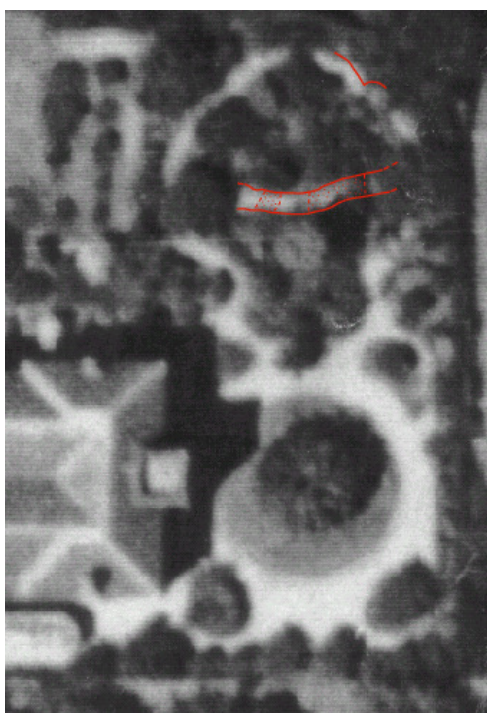


Figure 5.1. Area 3, c.1945 aerial photograph with garden path overlay (in red).





Figure 5.3. Villa Alba conservatory, looking south c.1945. (Source: J.Serle).



Figure 5.4. Villa Alba with octagonal toilet structure near fence (no date).

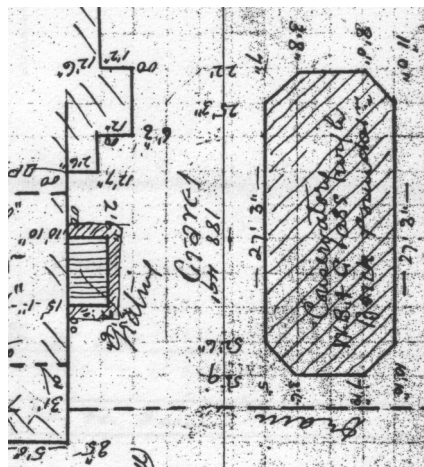


Figure 5.5 Surveyor's field notes showing gravel path between conservatory and mansion.



## 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### Recommendation 1

The archaeological remains of landscape features in the form of wood-lined garden path sections were preserved (temporarily) *in situ* in the southeastern half of Area 3. Other archaeological remains were left *in situ* and backfilled. The scope of this project did not include an assessment of archaeological significance, however as the property is listed on the Heritage Register the client is advised to consult with Heritage Victoria before undertaking any activities that may impact upon archaeological features in this part of the site.

### Recommendation 2

The large fragments of marble (context 130) removed from Trench H in Area 7A were set aside and not replaced during backfilling. As it is possible that the marble pre-dates the period during which the site was occupied by the hospital, it has been retained for possible incorporation into the final design of the landscape reconstruction.

### Recommendation 3

The clay deposits (context 77) in Area 7A Trench H were located in the area of former toilets and were left *in situ* and backfilled. It is recommended that these deposits be archaeologically tested as potential cess pit fill before undertaking any disturbance or removal of the deposits. This recommendation may be implemented as a separate program of archaeological excavation or in the form of archaeological monitoring during works. If archaeological remains are identified during monitoring, the archaeologist will have the authority to suspend further subsurface disturbance until the remains have been adequately assessed. Structural features and any artefacts recovered during archaeological monitoring (or excavation) should be fully documented, catalogued and analysed in accordance with Heritage Victoria guidelines. On completion of monitoring, a report should be prepared describing the results and any historical or management implications. A permit from Heritage Victoria will be required prior to commencing works.

### Recommendation 4

No additional subsurface testing is recommended for areas 2A, 3, 7B, 7C or 7D.

Permit applications should be discussed with Heritage Victoria and submitted at least six weeks before the scheduled commencement of archaeological works.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

### Unpublished notes and reports

Atkinson, M. 2002. *Villa Alba Museum Landscape Reconstruction Archaeological Test Excavations. A report to Villa Alba Museum Inc and Heritage Victoria.*

George, S. 2002. *An archaeological monitoring program of the northern garden area of Villa Alba, Victoria (H605). A report to Villa Alba Museum Inc and Heritage Victoria.*

Hawker, J. 2001. *Villa Alba - landscape notes.*

Sanderson, P. 1989. *Villa Alba Conservation Analysis.*

Serle, J. 1998. Recommended inclusions for the 1998 *Hubbard and Riddett Villa Alba Conservation Management Plan.*

Smith, J. and A.Jamieson, 2001. *Villa Alba Test Excavations.* Heritage Victoria.

### Plans

Adshead and McQuie Pty Ltd 2001. Plan of Compilation of Field Records Dated 1894 and 1911, Villa Alba Kew.

MMBW Drainage Plan 77833 23/9/1956 (source: VAM Inc)

### Archival documents

VPRS 8600/P1, Unit 54, field book 946, J.M. (Surveyor) 18/1/1894 Plan 7. Public Record Office of Victoria.

VPRS 10516/P Unit 7. Photograph of Villa Alba (no date).

Aerial photograph c.1945. Supplied by VAM Inc. (No bibliographic details available).



Plate 1. Area 2A Trench C, looking north.



Plate 2. Area 3 garden path, looking southeast.



Plate 3. Area 3 garden path detail, looking south.

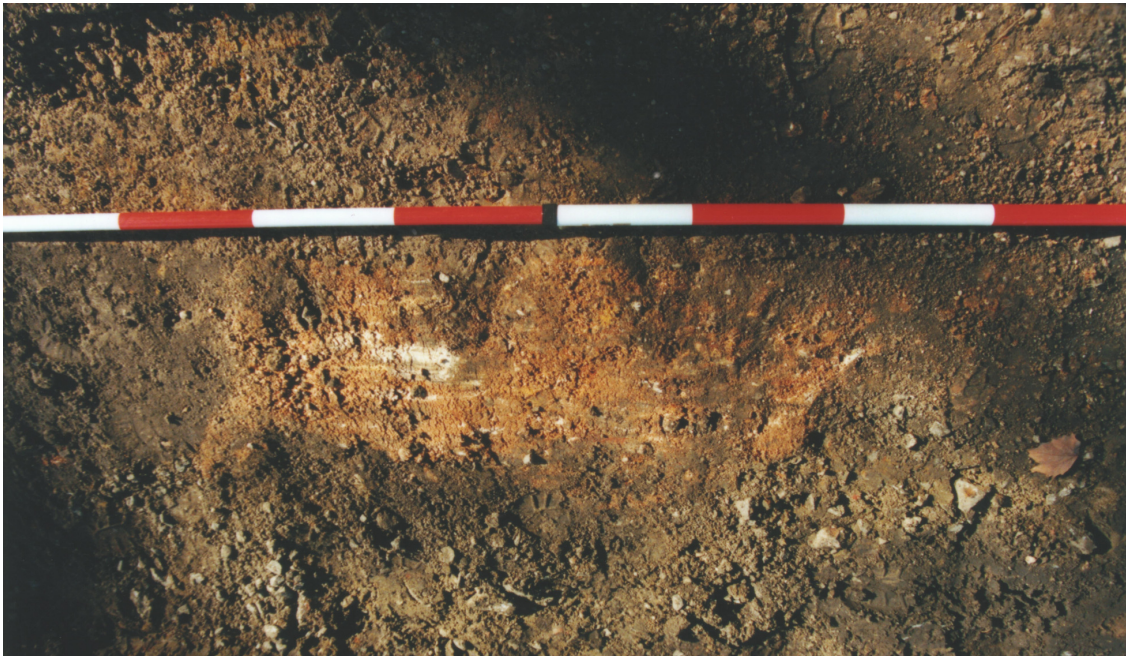


Plate 4. Area 3 Trench F path treatment detail.



Plate 5. Area 7A Trench H toilet block foundations, looking south.



Plate 6. Area 7B Trench I, looking east.



Plate 7. Area 7B Trench I, tile paving detail, looking east.



Plate 8. Area 7D Trenches K and L, looking north.

## APPENDIX 2

## CONTEXT LIST

Context #	Area/Trench	Description	Equivalent to
01	2A / A	Surface leaf litter, humus, vegetation	
02	2A / A	Root zone, topsoil	
03	2A / A	Orange-brown clay with red inclusions	
10	2A / B	Root zone	02
11	2A / B	Gravel in pink/orange matrix	
12	2A / B	Coarse orange sand	
13	2A / B	Grey brown soil	02
14	2A / B	Metal pipe	
20	2A / C	Root zone, topsoil	02
21	2A / C	Gravel in pink/orange matrix	11
22	2A / C	Compact orange red sand/compact mortar	
23	2A / C	Metal pipe	14
30	3 / D	Orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble	
31	3 / D	Fine white gravel in pink-orange matrix	
32	3 / D	Wooden edging	
33	3 / D	Orange brown clay, no inclusions (natural)	03
40	3 / E	Orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble	30
41	3 / E	Dark brown/grey black organic soil	
42	3 / E	Orange brown clay, no inclusions (natural)	03
50	3 / F	Orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble	30
51	3 / F	Fine white gravel in pink-orange matrix	31
60	3 / G	Orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble	30
70	7A / H	White concrete tiles	
71	7A / H	Light grey sand under 70	
72	7A / H	Red tiled border (octagonal)	
73	7A / H	Concrete rectangle in centre of octagon	
74	7A / H	'Crazy paving' between 72 and 74	
75	7A / H	Square gully trap	
76	7A / H	Concrete slab north of octagon	
77	7A / H	Clay fill under 73	
78	7A / H	Sandy cement fill under 04	
79	7A / H	Postholes (3 north, 3 northwest, 3 south)	
80	7A / H	Brown-grey sandy clay, loose, under 74	
81	7A / H	Machine bricks, above 82	
82	7A / H	Red brick foundations, under 81	
83	7A / H	Sandy mortar on 82	
84	7A / H	Patch of gravel path in SE, outside octagon	
85	7A / H	Metal pipe in NE corner	
86	7A / H	Trench cut for 85	
87	7A / H	Metal pipe along west boundary	
88	7A / H	Metal pipe and tap east of 87	
89	7A / H	Pipe in NW (up-pipe, very small)	
90	7B / I	Concrete tile paving	
91	7B / I	Yellow sand under 90	

92	7B / I	Topsoil under 91 and to the east and west of trench	
93	7B / I	Concrete slab under 92	
94	7B / I	Concrete under 93	
95	7B / I	Red and yellow tiles under 92, 94	
96	7B / I	Orange-brown clay (natural)	03
100	7C / J	Concrete slab	
101	7C / J	Orange-brown rocky clay fill and demolition rubble	30
102	7C / J	Terracotta pipe	
110	7D / K, L	Vegetation	
111	7D / K, L	Root zone, topsoil	
112	7D / K, L	White gravel in loose soil	
113	7D / K, L	White gravel in compact matrix	
114	7D / K, L	Topsoil surface (non-path)	
120	7D / M	Vegetation	110
121	7D / M	Root zone, topsoil	111
122	7D / M	Compact orange clay/white sand with white gravel	
123	7D / M	White sand (related to nearby concrete)	
124	7D / M	Loose grey brown soil	
125	7D / M	?planting holes	
130	7A / H	Triangular and rectangular slabs of marble	



APPENDIX 3 Copy of Heritage Victoria permit

# PERMIT

HERITAGE ACT 1995

PERMIT NO: P6279

OWNER/APPLICANT: Jessie Serle  
Chair – Villa Alba Garden Steering Sub-Committee  
ADDRESS: 31 Lisson Grove  
HAWTHORN VIC 3122



**Heritage**  
VICTORIA

HERITAGE REGISTER NO: H 605  
REGISTRATION CATEGORY: Heritage Place

FILE: HER/2001/000031 Part 2

NAME OF PLACE /OBJECT (IF ANY): **VILLA ALBA**  
LOCATION: 44 Walmer Street, Kew

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Heritage Act (1995) and in respect to the above-mentioned place / object, the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria hereby grants a PERMIT, subject to conditions as prescribed hereunder to carry out the following:

*Archaeological excavations of the Villa Alba site, in accordance with the Summary of Proposed Works (Attachment 1 & letter dated 3 July 2002) and as shown in the annotated Plans (Attachments 2, 3 & 4) as endorsed by Heritage Victoria and forming part of this permit.*

**CONDITIONS:**

1. Approved works or activities are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the registered place.
2. A suitably qualified archaeologist is to supervise the works and record all significant features that are exposed. All works are to be recorded and interpreted in the project report.
3. At the completion of the works, the archaeologist must provide 2 copies of the excavation project report to Heritage Victoria. The archaeologist must also include a photographic (slide) record of the archaeological investigation for the Heritage Victoria records.
4. All portable relics excavated are to be listed in an inventory to be submitted in the final report. Only those from stratified deposits, a representative sample of the site and those suitable for public display are to be retained. A copy of the artefact inventory, in electronic Excel format, must also be submitted to Heritage Victoria. All artefacts recovered from the site are to be placed in corflute boxes and labelled with acid-free labels, as directed by the Conservator, Heritage Victoria.
5. The applicant is responsible for all costs resulting from the conservation of any significant artefacts recovered from the site during the excavation work
6. An officer of Heritage Victoria, acting under the authority of the *Heritage Act 1995*, may at any time inspect the works undertaken or relics recovered under the Permit. The Executive Director is to be informed when the approved works have been completed.
7. This permit shall expire if the permitted works have not commenced within one (1) year of the date of issue of this permit, or are not completed within two (2) years of the date of issue of this permit.

**NOTE THAT PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR INSPECTIONS OF THE PLACE OR OBJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS, AND WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS OF NOTIFICATION OF THEIR COMPLETION.**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY NATURAL PERSON WHO CARRIES OUT WORKS OR ACTIVITIES NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERMIT OR CONDITIONS IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF UP TO 1,500 PENALTY UNITS (\$150,000) OR 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH, OR IN THE CASE OF A BODY CORPORATE 3,000 PENALTY UNITS (\$300,000).**

**THE ATTENTION OF THE OWNER AND/OR APPLICANT IS DRAWN TO THE NEED TO OBTAIN ALL OTHER RELEVANT PERMITS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS.**

Copy to: Statutory Planner, Boroondara City Council, Private Bag 1, Camberwell, Vic, 3124

HERITAGE VICTORIA  
22/80 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000

Signed  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date 7 August 2002