

Grange Farm

The section of Colonel Light Gardens east of Goodwood Road was previously operated as a farm known as Grange Farm.

The three full and one part Sections which made up the farm were first separately granted to Messrs. Pollard, Hill and Hall during 1838-9. By 1846, all these sections had come into the ownership of Robert Hall. After Hall's death the properties were transferred to William Ranson Mortlock. Mortlock had already acquired very substantial rural properties elsewhere in South Australia. William Ranson Mortlock died in 1884 and this saw Grange Farm transfer to his son, William Tennant Mortlock.

The records indicate that Grange Farm had been leased to various tenants from the 1870's. Grange Farm continued to be farmed by tenants during the Mortlock family ownership.

In February 1915, the Grange Farm was valued by a Licenced Valuer for the South Australian Government then interested in purchasing the farm.

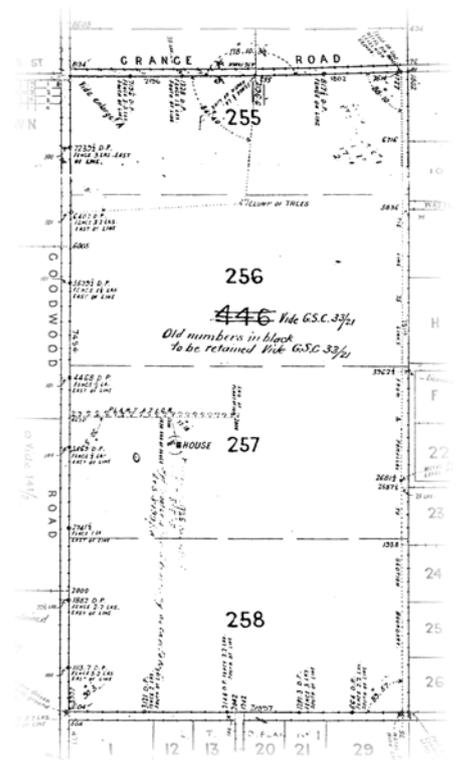
The Valuer's report described the property in the following way:-

The property is situated in the foothills about four miles south from the City and is believed to be known as Mortlock's "Grange Farm". It is bounded on the south by Springbank Road, on the west by Goodwood Road and on the north by Grange Road. The improvements consist of an old Homestead of 4 stone rooms with 2 of galvanised iron attached to the rear, and scattered outbuildings. The land is enclosed with an old post and wire fence - part wirenetted. Just inside the western boundary fence from the south end there stretches northwards to a point opposite the Homestead an avenue of pine trees, many of these are sick from the continued drought, and may not recover. Elsewhere on the southern sections, which have been used for grazing purposes, there are scattered gums, and these in appearance do not indicate any particular richness of soil. The northern sections, you are no doubt aware, have been cropped from time to time and are treeless.

In February 1917, Grange Farm was surveyed and a contour plan was drawn. The full plan confirms the gums scattered over the southern section of the farm. A significant stand of eucalyptus was shown (adjacent to where the Colonel Light Gardens Junior Primary building was constructed during 1926).



Grange Farm



1915 map of property



William Tennant Mortlock

Eucalyptus had also been planted along the road which led from Goodwood Road to the farmhouse. Almond trees were shown around the farmhouse. A third stand of eucalyptus was evident in early photos near a small dam located where the Reade Park Croquet Club operates today.

(Photo shows T C Stephens, later to become the Garden Suburb Commissioner)

Further Reading

Garnaut, G *Colonel Light Gardens: model garden suburb*, Crossing Press, Sydney 1999.

A History of the Colonel Light Gardens Communities. Robert Miller, Author. 1993.

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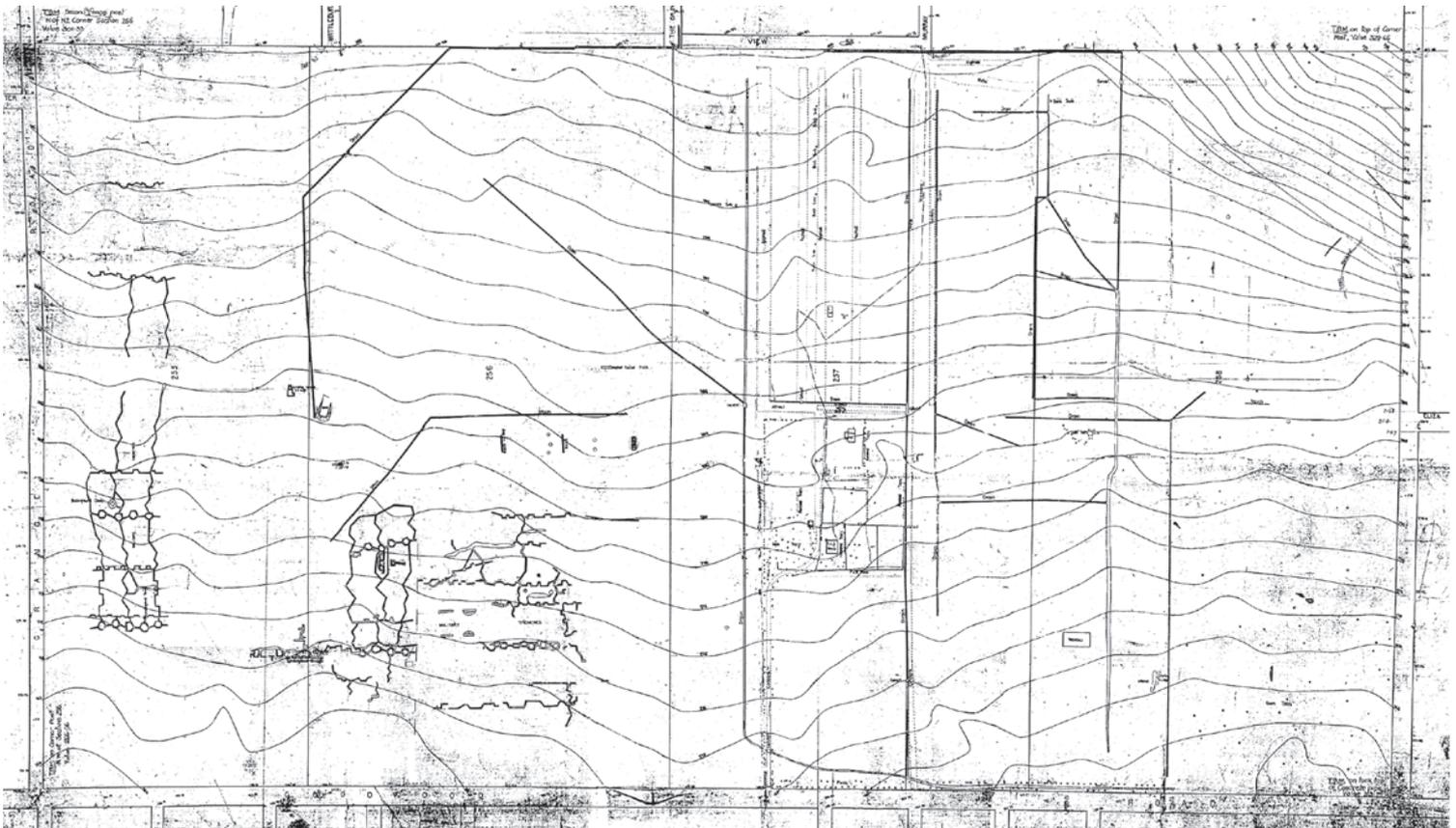
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Grange farmhouse



Trees and dam where Reade Park is now located



1917 map of Grange Farm with all trees, farmhouse, contour lines and army facilities detailed