



Figure 38: Cliffbrook under Construction - Stables complex buildings in the northwest corner of the study area (c.1921/22)

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Figure 39: Cliffbrook (c.1920s)

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Figure 40: Historic Air Photo showing Cliffbrook & Gordon Court (1943)

LPI SIX Viewer



Figure 41: Historic Air Photo showing Cliffbrook & Gordon Court - Detail (1943)

This photo dates to the period when the military were utilising the estate. Cliffbrook and the stone garage (with two vehicles out front) is visible, as are numerous army tents. The original Cliffbrook/Gordon Court is also visible to the south; west of Gordons Bay's sandy beach

LPI SIX Viewer

AAEC & UNSW

The study area as it stands today was purchased by the Commonwealth Government in 1953 and became the headquarters of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC). The property purchase by the AAEC took some time and was not finalised until 1959, when the Commission paid the sum of \$13,518.42. While the Commission head office was at Cliffbrook (until 1981) its main operational and experimental facilities were at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Lucas Heights in Southwest Sydney (established in 1958).¹⁹

The period between 1953 and 1981 saw the most far reaching changes to Cliffbrook mansion and its immediate setting. Over some thirty years, the mansion was remodelled and three substantial buildings were added to the site: a single storey brick residence; a single storey brick office building; and a multi-storey, L-shaped brick office building (all probably built in the late 1950s and certainly extant by 1965).²⁰ Along with these were added three lesser ancillary buildings including two fibro cement buildings (which may in fact date from the army's occupancy during WWII) and a small greenhouse (1959). The main entrance gates also date to the period and feature the AAEC emblem.

The most substantial alterations to Cliffbrook itself were undertaken in 1963/64. Plans by architects Budden Nangle and Michael (19 September 1963; 15 May 1964) show that during this time several modifications were undertaken to the internal spaces including modification of the kitchen; remodelling of some bathrooms; installation of a new lower ceiling and construction of an inquiry counter.

In 1981 the Australian Atomic Energy Commission moved their headquarters to Lucas Heights.²¹ During 1988 the Commonwealth Government sought to dispose of the property. At the time, the site was identified as an item of State significance and a Permanent Conservation Order (PCO) was placed over the property to ensure the future conservation and Management of the property.²² It had previously been acknowledged as an important heritage place and had been earlier added to the non-statutory Registers of the National Estate and National Trust in 1982 and 1986 respectively.

In the early February 1993, ownership of the property was transferred to the University of New South Wales for research and administrative purposes, initially housing the Asia-Australia Institute and the Australian Taxation Studies program.²³

Refer **figures 42 - 51**.

¹⁹ John Graham & Associates 2008; <http://www.eoas.info/biogs/A000749b.htm>

²⁰ John Graham & Associates 2008

²¹ The AAEC became the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in 1987

²² The PCO (28 October 1988) was replaced by the listing of the site on the State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999

²³ *Uniken* 19 February 1993: 3