



This is an extract from the full 192 page document describing the history of the first 50 years of the Vampires , including archival material of the history of Hurlingham Park and Brighton generally

PLAN OF THE
BRIGHTON ESTATE.
containing
5120 Acres.

W. D. Fox, Surveyor
J. D. Dundy, Surveyor
J. D. Dundy, Surveyor



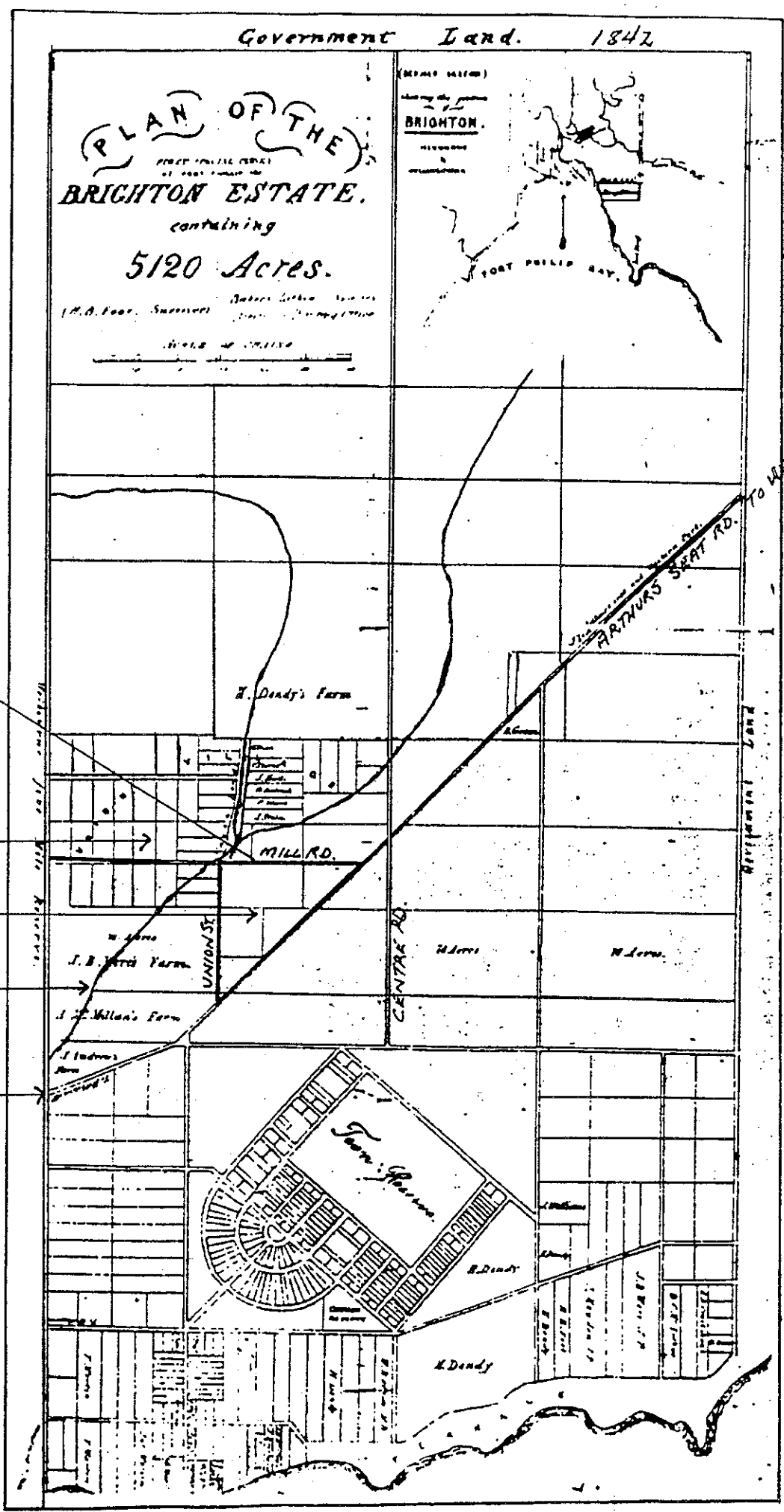
HAWTHORN RD.

UNION VILLAGE

HURLINGHAM PARK

ELSTER CREEK

NEPEAN HWY.



TO WESTERN PORT

Original Land

Since 1952 the East Brighton Football Club has made its home at Hurlingham Park. The park is certainly a different place now from when the club moved there from Dendy Park where the first four seasons from 1948 to 1951 were played and it is a vastly different area from the first development.

In 1841 Henry Dendy took up a special survey of 5,120 acres which he purchased in England at one pound per acre and included the Hurlingham Park of today and indeed the greater part of Brighton. The land in the survey was described as "Open Forest Land Timbered with Oak, Gum, Cherry and Honeysuckle". The survey area was diagonally cut by the squatters main road through from Melbourne to Western Port, which today is the Nepean Highway and was originally known as the Arthur's Seat Road. A competition organised by Dendy saw the area planned and sub-divided into the Waterville Estate and re-named the Brighton Estate on the 31st May, 1841.

By 1842 the park was within an area known locally as the "Union Village" and one founding resident in particular was Peter Hurlstone who was often referred to as The King of Union Village. Hurlstone was, amongst other things, an Engineer, Ships Captain, Sawmiller and he established a sawmill near the corner of Union Street and Mill Road (Hawthorn Road). It is not clear but he may have lived near to the present day Hurlingham Nursing Home. There is also a school of thought that the park may have been named after him. He also helped establish a school for the area, which still stands today. His son-in-law, Charles Stone, also aided in the establishment of the Hawthorn Road Methodist Church.

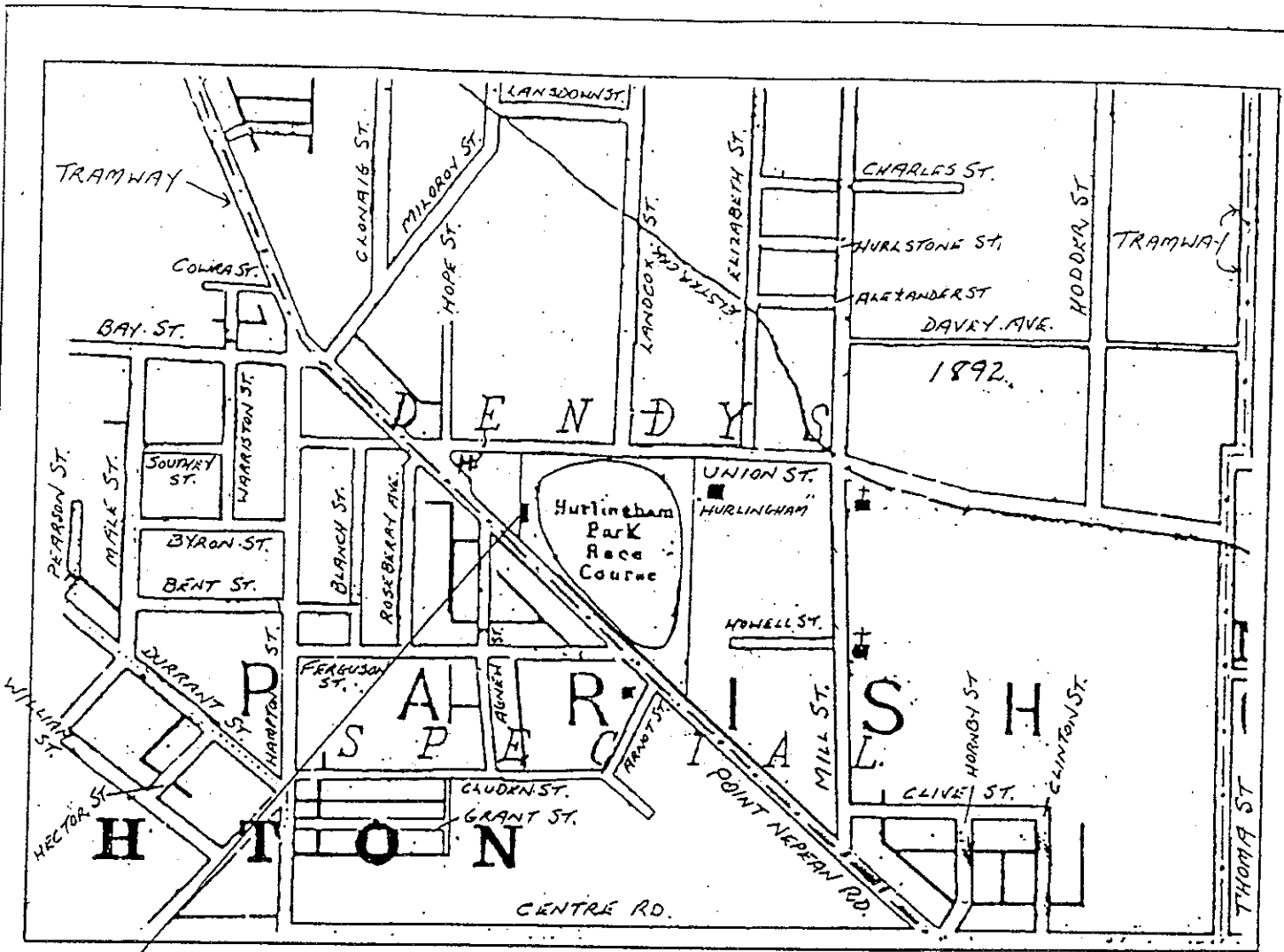
An important development was the granting to Robert Keys of a licence for an Inn, which opened on Christmas Day 1846 and then was granted a full licence to operate as The Little Brighton Inn in 1847. The hotel stood on the corner of Union Street and Nepean Highway and was still operating as the Brighton Club Hotel (name changed early 1900's) until August 1997. To the rear and alongside the hotel was a large allotment of vacant land which had become popular as a sports and recreation area.

The 1857 Council rate book called the area, which as today was bounded by Union Street, Hawthorn Road and Nepean Highway, "Brighton Hurlingham" perhaps after its London namesake where pigeon shooting, horse riding and polo were the principal sports. Shoots were regularly organised and for many years the park was the headquarters of the Melbourne Gun Club. Whilst the gun club was based there, two pigeon shoots of note took place. The first was on 15th February, 1890 when for a two hundred pound stake, Lewis Clarke defeated Capt J L Brewer of America (World Champion) and the second was in 1908 when A W Eales won the Commonwealth Championships held there.

By 1859 Brighton had been declared a "City". The train line from Melbourne had been extended to North Brighton making the area more attractive as land was plentiful, cheap and highly suitable for market gardening. The area around the park was now more commonly known as "Little Brighton".

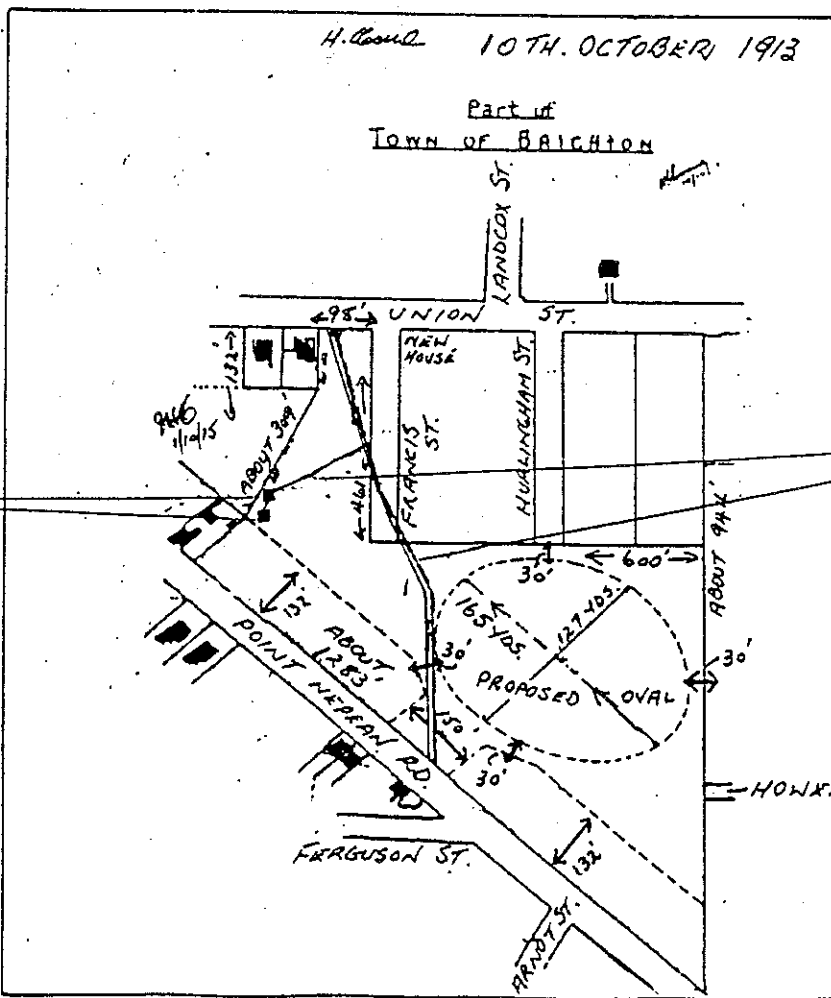
Through the 1860's and 1870's the park itself was still mostly vacant land and was commonly called Keys' or Cullens' paddock, both licensees of the Inn. It was used regularly for picnic pony race meetings, ploughing competitions, cricket, soccer, pigeon shooting, hurly, iron quoits, croquet and occasionally trotting. It was, however, as a racecourse that the park and no doubt the hotel was best known and patronised. In 1880 four thousand people turned out to one of Cullens' meetings with horsedrawn cabs transporting people from the nearby North Brighton Rail Station. The park was also used continuously through to the 1920's and 1930's for the grazing of horses (at a fee) by the Grants, the nearby Bay Street dairy and others.

The hotel itself became the nerve centre for the local rural community. Fortnightly cattle, horse and produce markets run by Langhorne and Hegarty were held on Wednesday afternoons through the 1880's and 1890's. Indeed the hotel with its close proximity was regularly patronised by the many park users. The various licensees from Keys, Cullen, Bent, Alfred and Gaisford in 1901, Eugene McSweeney 1912, Ralph Sierakowski 1940, Jack Harman 1971, Tom and Keigh Gibby 1973 to Stuart Wilson in the mid 1980's, always had a close relationship with the local sporting groups. The hotel closed in August 1997 and has been turned into a liquor barn ending a 150 year association with the area. Many St Kilda



PAVILION AND TOILETS FOR PONY RACES & TROTTING.

MALE AND FEMALE TOILETS ON HIGH GROUND



PROPOSED SUB-DIVISION ALONG HIGHWAY
FIRST PROPOSED BY SIR THOM. BENT DURING 1880S, 1890S THEN BY COUNCIL EARLY 1900S.

OPEN DRAINS STORM WATER & SEWAGE

BACK ROW.

MICK
O'NEILL.

PERCE
MANSFIELD.

CECIL
SMITH.

JACK
BEST.

ARCH
CANTWELL.

2ND ROW
LEFT TO RIGHT.

STEWART
PENGELLY.

CHAS
SMITH.

RON
BARTHOLOMEW.

STAN
BROWN (SEC).

KEN
KENNEDY.

GEORGE
ALFORD.

BERT
ENION.



1ST ROW
LEFT TO RIGHT

BERT
CUTHBERT.

LES
HALL.

KEN
WONNACOTT.

ALAN
HOPE (CAPT.)

STAN
HALL.

BOB
HEAGNEY.

CLARRIE
HINSON.

BILL
MURPHY.

FRANK
DUNCAN.

BILL
BELL.

Brighton Jun. F.C.

1922-3-24