

## Appendix C—Blundells Cottage Historical Timeline

This historical timeline overview of Blundells Cottage in the wider context of early settlement and the development of Canberra. It is based on the history written in the 1994 CMP by Freeman Collett & Partners, *The Cottage in the Parliamentary Triangle* written by Beth Knowles (1990) and *A Visit to Blundell's Farmhouse* prepared by the Canberra and District Historical Society (1972).

Date	Event
<b>Duntroon Estate 1825–1860</b>	
1825	Robert Campbell received land in the Limestone Plains.
1833	The Campbell family residence at Pialligo, later Duntroon, was completed
1837	Campbell family continued to purchase land along Molonglo River, towards Queanbeyan and Molonglo Plains.
15 <sup>th</sup> April 1846	Robert Campbell died age 76; the property at Pialligo was inherited by his son George and managed by his other son Charles.
1846	Pialligo renamed Duntroon, after family seat in Scotland.
<b>The Ginn family 1860–1874</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 1857	William and Mary Ginn arrived in Sydney as assisted immigrants, with their sons Walter and Henry Thomas. William Ginn became head ploughman at Duntroon. The Ginn family first lived in a slab cottage at Woolshed Creek.
1859	Agnes Ginn was born at Woolshed Creek.
1860	Blundells Cottage is erected around this time to house its first tenants, the Ginn family. Internally the two eastern rooms were served by back to back fireplaces on the eastern wall. Below its shingle roof the simple vernacular front of the cottage faced north towards St John's church, and could probably have been approached both from the track linking the church to Duntroon House and Church Lane. The rear of the building, entered by a flight of steps, faced the river and the working areas of the farm.
1861	<i>The Selection Act</i> was introduced and stated that Crown Lands were to become available for 'selection' in small blocks.
1864	Agnes was badly burned when her clothes caught alight, highlighting the danger of fire as a major hazard for women.
1865	Gertrude Ginn was born in the cottage.
1870	A flood came very close to Blundells Cottage, flooding sheds, destroying crops and drowning stock.
<b>The Blundell family 1874–1933</b>	
1874	Ginn family family moved to their own property at Canberra Park. George and Flora Blundell took up residence in the stone cottage.
1875	Flora Susannah was born in the cottage.
December 1877	There were several rented farms (Blundells' and Youngs') along the bank of the creek below a neat church (St John's). The Campbell employee cottages were described as nearly all built of stone in various architectural styles, with attached gardens.
1878-1885	John Blundell, Charles Frederick, George Arthur, Herbert Frank, Ada Agnes, Alice Maud were born in the cottage.
1887	Railway reaches Queanbeyan, reducing distance travelled by George Blundell and his teams of horses and bullocks. Drays and wagons however continued to be used well into the next century until motor transport took over.

Date	Event
1888	Joseph Lyle was born in the cottage. Two back rooms were added to the cottage. A brick and stone bread oven and a new fireplace were constructed. The new corrugated iron roof was extended to cover the single roof over the front four rooms; this was able to provide rainwater which was stored in tanks. The extant slab timber shed was erected initially as an external kitchen, with a brick chimney and fireplace at the northern end. Three of the boys appear to have slept in this building. A slab skillion on the southeast corner may have housed a horse buggy.
1891	A flood came very close to the cottage, approximately where Wendouree Road sits today. It flooded sheds, haystacks, crops and drowned stock.
1892	Flora Susannah died of burns sustained while ironing.
1910	Another flood came very close to the cottage.
20 <sup>th</sup> February 1911	Acton was acquired by the Director of Lands and Surveys under Lands Acquisition Act of 1906 and Government Acceptance Act of 1909.
1912	Duntroon house and grounds had been leased as the Military College. Walter Burley Griffin was announced the winner of the design competition for the national capital. Blundells Cottage held a central place in his design.
1913	Blundells Cottage surveyed and valued: Set on 125 acres, and the adjacent paddock of 79 acres, the building was described as being of six rooms with stone walls, iron roof, floored and finished. There was a detached kitchen with slab walls and an iron roof. The valuation of the buildings was put at £175. Blundell family successfully applied for permission to remain in occupation. The rent paid to Duntroon by George Blundell previously amounted to £67 per annum in total, for 204 acres, but this was reduced to £60.
11 <sup>th</sup> April 1913	Duntroon Estate, Holding No. 21, passed into the hands of the Commonwealth, Campbell family left the district.
1913-1914	The conjectural Sequential Plan for this period indicates a landscape already modified by the early building of the Federal Capital city. The Blundells' Cottage and its outbuildings, being located just above the river plain and on the site of the future lake, showed little change.
1914	17 paddocks were advertised for lease by the Commonwealth (George Blundell has previously retained his land which was not advertised for leased).
1913-1926	Cottage was drawn by Eirene Mort.
1914	George continued to make stock returns until 1923.
1917	Flora Blundell died and was buried at the Queanbeyan Cemetery.
1918	The 'Departmental Board Plan', and Burley Griffin's 'Official Plan' of 1918, had provided some degree of protection for the Blundells Cottage, with riverside development reflecting the 100 year flood level of the Molonglo River. Griffin's plan ignored the underlying European landscape patterns and placed the cottage within a series of triangles defined by land, water and municipal axes.
1922	Many land holdings in Federal Capital Territory were re-organised in 1922 and offered for lease at auction in 1924 under the Leases Ordinance 1919-1923. Blundells' Cottage, on Block 95 in the District of Canberra, remained intact amidst cultivated fields.
1925	A flood came very close to the cottage, approximately where Wendouree Road sits today. It flooded sheds, haystacks, crops and drowned stock.
1927	The provisional Parliament House opened.
1929	Low level bridge opened over Molonglo River, which improved the link with Kingston and the importance of Church Lane to the people of Canberra. The name of Church Lane and the cottage's address changed to Scott's Crossing Road.

Date	Event
<b>Alice and Harry Oldfield 1933–1958</b>	
1933	George Blundell died and was buried in St John's Churchyard. The last long term residents, Harry and Alice Oldfield, occupied the cottage Alice, with Harry's help, developed a productive small holding of three acres around the cottage, supplying farm produce to the newly arrived public servants. Three rows of pine and cypress trees were planted by Mrs Oldfield.
1942	Harry Oldfield died and was buried in St John's Churchyard. Alice remained in the cottage for another 16 years, without electricity or running water, sharing it with many boarders. The front verandah was enclosed with fibro-cement sheeting, while two wood stoves were in use.
1947-1949	Tom McCauley and his wife lived in the back two rooms, with Tom responsible for digging a trench for the outside toilet which appears in photographs at this time.
1952	Scott's Crossing had become the main traffic link between the two sides of the river
1954	The Australian-American memorial was completed. The conjectural Sequential Plan for this period is based on the 1933 Charles Skinner Map of Canberra which shows the areas neighbouring Blundells' Cottage subject to substantial development. Blundells Cottage and paddocks now bounded by Constitution Avenue to the north and the Parliamentary precinct to the south.
<b>National Capital Development Commission 1958–1963</b>	
September 1958	Alice Oldfield died and was buried with her husband. Several days after the Canberra & District Historical Society wrote to the Department of the Interior expressing concern for the cottage which had become Commonwealth-owned.
1959-1964	Matter referred to the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) which issued a planning report for the five year period.
By August 1959	The Cottage was now designated as part of Block 34, Canberra City. W J Edlington leased the 134 acre block at a rental of 37 shillings per annum but sub-let the cottage. The block had been reduced to 52 acres.
February 1961	British town planner Sir William Holford prepared an advisory report on the landscape of the Canberra Lake System and recommended that 'Oldfield's Cottage' be restored to its original state. In February 1961 the 'Oldfields cottage', the only building in addition to St John's Church and the schoolhouse identifying the village of 'Canbury' today, was saved from demolition.
April 1961	The NCDC advised the Department of Interior of its decision to retain and restore 'Oldfield's Cottage'.
April-August 1961	Sydney architect Morton Herman prepared a restoration study for the NCDC. He recommended that the cottage be retained and presented as a humble farmhouse. International Constructions, headed by Alice Schreiner, successfully tendered for the restoration.
1963	Major work on cottage over 4 month period entailed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· lining the cottage ceilings with fibrous plaster sheeting;</li> <li>· removing outlying structures, including sheds, fences and other ephemeral evidence of occupation;</li> <li>· sandblasting limewash accretions from the coursed rubble stonework of the cottage;</li> <li>· relocating rainwater tanks; and</li> <li>· rebuilding the front verandah and removing the fibro-cement partition.</li> </ul> Landscaping of new roads and foreshore isolated the cottage from its 19 <sup>th</sup> century village context but provided a new setting in which the lake was a constant reminder of the floods, and conservation and interpretation could take place. CDHS was offered tenancy of the cottage.

Date	Event
<b>Canberra &amp; District Historical Society 1963-1999</b>	
13 March 1964	Cottage was officially opened and named 'Blundells Cottage'.
April 1964	Development of Lake Burley Griffon completed.
1965	<p>Changes were made to better present the cottage:</p> <p>The garden and approaches to the house were planned</p> <p>The cypress, pine and healthy deciduous trees were retained</p> <p>In the absence of 'good historical evidence' steps, fences and plants were arranged to create an attractive rather than historically accurate setting.</p>
1966	<p>Wendouree Drive was sealed for better access and an attendant was employed so that the cottage could be opened more frequently.</p> <p>The fireplace, chimney and slab skillion were removed and a small wc extension added.</p>
1967	<p>CDHS suggested the L-shaped timber slab building be modified to a simple rectangular shape. Basic repair and rebuilding of the shed was completed using slabs from McIntosh's farm in Murrumbateman.</p> <p>The pepper tree on the hill to the left of the cottage and the orchard to the right of the cottage was planted. Various plants such as old roses, rosemary, lavender, wallflowers and geraniums were planted near the house. A collection of herbs was planted near the back door. A lemon verbena was planted by the back gate.</p>
1971	<p>The cottage's ceilings were lined with pine boards taken from the resumed Gribble property at Murrumbateman.</p> <p>The cottage was furnished and managed as a museum.</p>
1972	<p><i>A Visit to Blundells Cottage</i> was published by Patience Wardle to introduce the cottage and its artefacts to visitors.</p> <p>CDHS paved the verandah and paths around the cottage using bricks from old Canberra buildings.</p>
1983	<p>A conservation plan was initiated by the Department of Territories and Local Government.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Construction prepared the brief which proposed that a conservation analysis, plan and policy be prepared to guide both the development of the cottage museum and future building conservation in light of current practice.</p> <p>A final report submitted by Phillip Cox &amp; Partners Ltd recommended that Blundells Cottage be conserved as a workman's cottage representative of the period 1860-1890.</p>
1988	Cottage recorded as part of the Marion Mahony Griffin Measured Drawing Competition
1990	<i>The Cottage in the Parliamentary Triangle</i> was written by Beth Knowles and published by the CDHS.
1993	<p>Newly formed National Capital Planning Authority invited tenders for the preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan.</p> <p>Freeman Collet &amp; Partners Pty Ltd Architects and Planners successfully tendered for the project.</p>
9 April 1994	A public workshop was held at the cottage to assist in the development of an understanding of the future conservation, interpretation and management of the cottage and its precinct.

Date	Event
1994	<p>The Sequential Plan indicating the situation of the cottage in 1994 shows the cottage and a single remnant outbuilding surrounded by a much modified landscape.</p> <p>To the northeast in the elevated Parkes Way, to the south and west in the lake, and to the east is Kings Park.</p> <p>The cottage, its garden and outbuilding, now appear curiously marooned in a late 20<sup>th</sup> century planned landscape.</p>
<b>National Capital Authority 1999-Present (2012)</b>	
1999	NCA was given control of the cottage.