



Canberra & District  
Historical Society Inc.  
FOUNDED 10 December 1953

A virtual display of some  
Canberra sketches by

# Bill Bresser

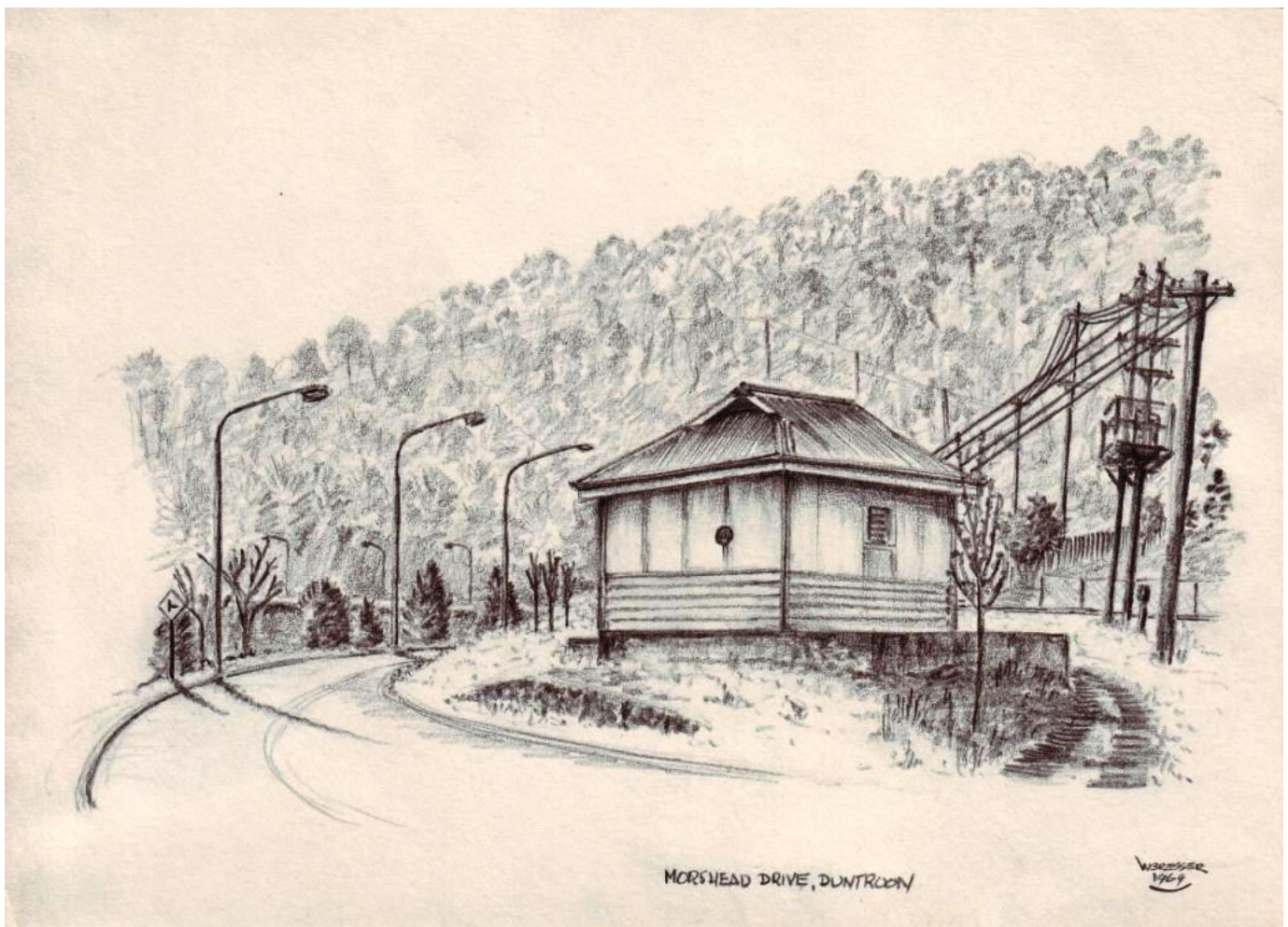
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Canberra & District Historical Society  
2020

Dutch born Bill Bresser lived in Canberra for more than fifty years and began sketching buildings and places around his new home in the 1960s.

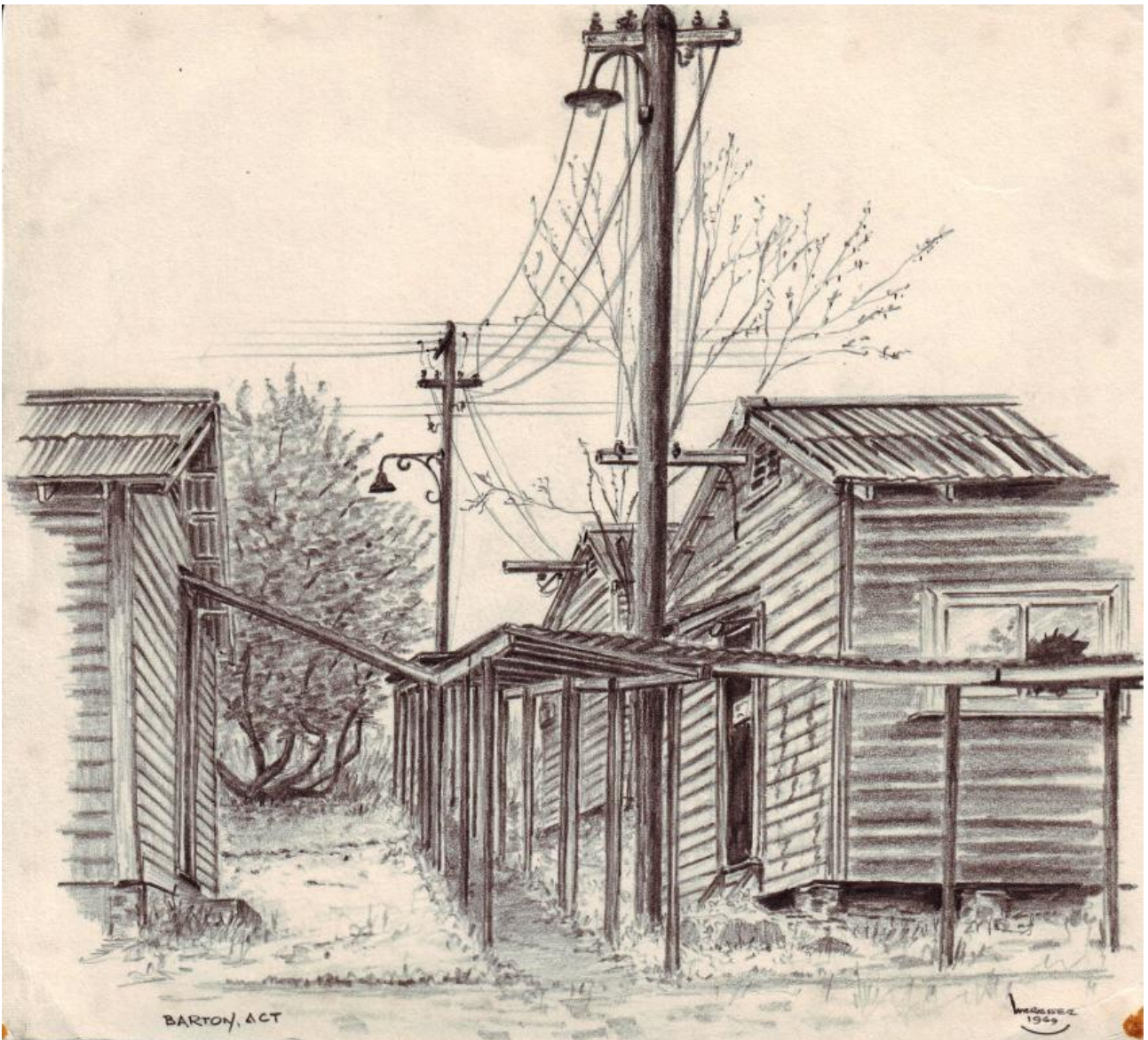
It resulted in several publications including *St Andrew's Canberra* (1970), *Canberra Uncovered* (1971), *Canberra Country* (1981) and *This Noble Building* (1991). Bill left Canberra in 2019 but before doing so he donated 14 original pencil sketches to the CDHS dating from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. These early works are less refined than those published in his books, but do illustrate parts of Canberra that no longer exist.

Some of the sketches will be recognisable to viewers, but others are unknown. Perhaps you can identify them?



*Morshead Drive, Duntroon (1969)*

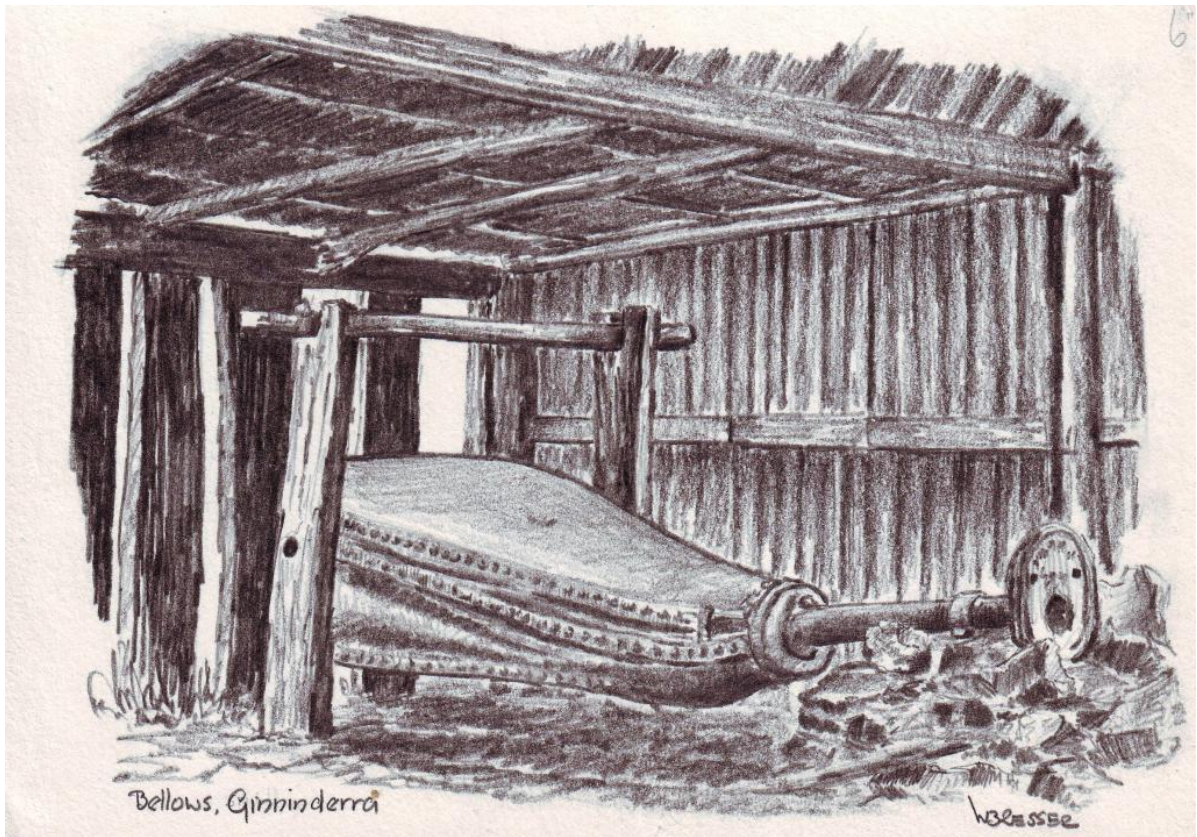
Can you identify this building with what looks like the slopes of Mt Pleasant in the background? It appears to be near the old Jubilee Avenue entrance (the Badge Gates) to the Royal Military College, Duntroon.



*Barton, ACT (1969)*

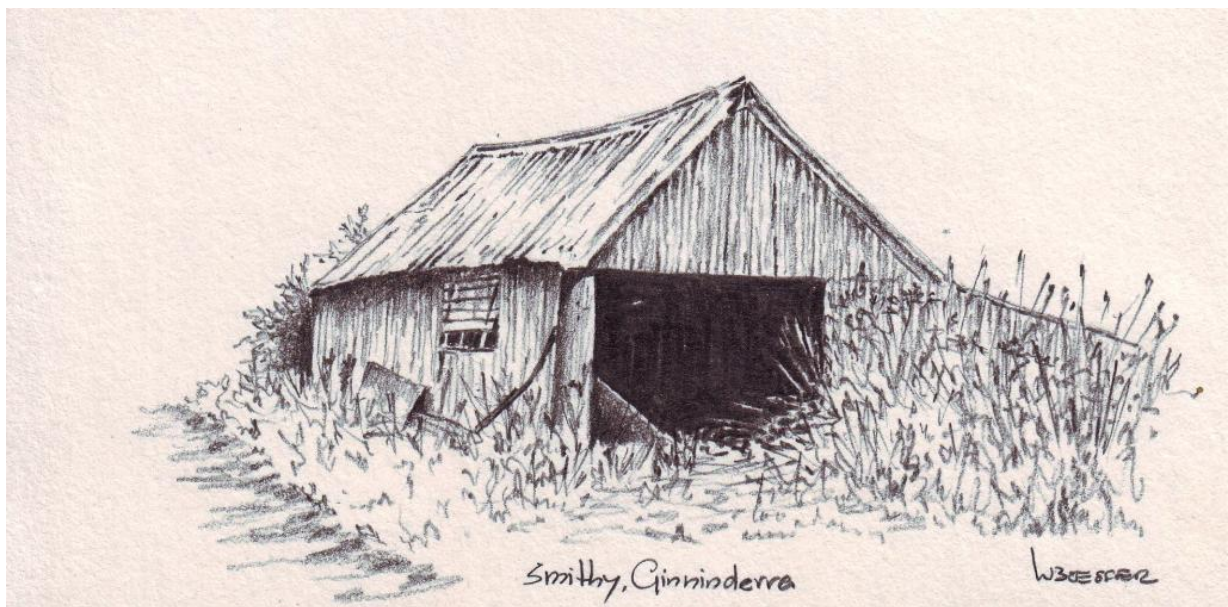
Parts of the old Riverside buildings above Bowen Drive in Barton. Built originally as hostel accommodation in 1946, the buildings later housed community groups until they were demolished in the early 1990s.





*Bellows, Ginninderra (undated)*

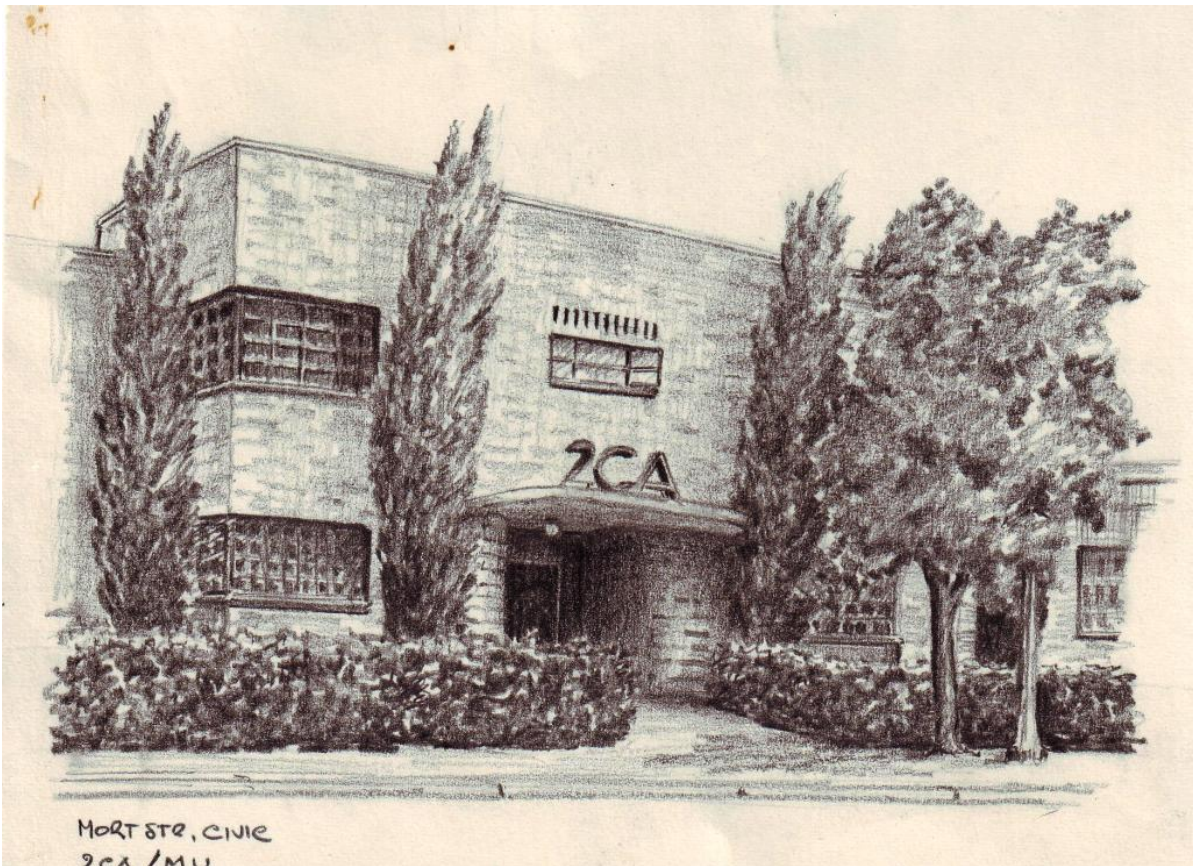
The bellows used in the blacksmith's shop at Ginninderra on the Barton Highway at Gold Creek.



*Smithy, Ginninderra (undated)*

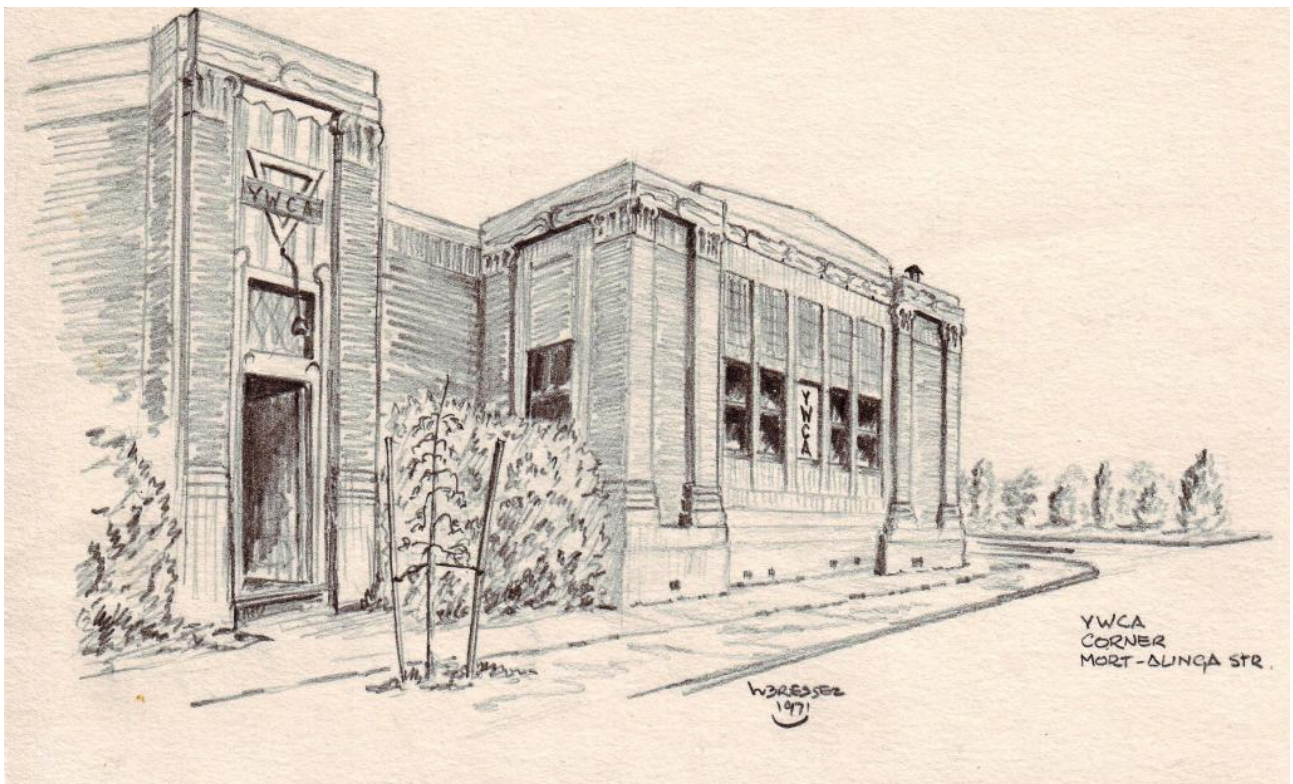
The smithy housed the bellows at Ginninderra. Believed to have been built by James Hatch in 1860, it was subsequently operated by Florence McAuliffe, George Curran and Alexander Warwick. The last of the smithys was Curran's nephew, Harry Curran, who ran the forge until he retired in 1949.





*Mort St, Civic 2CA*

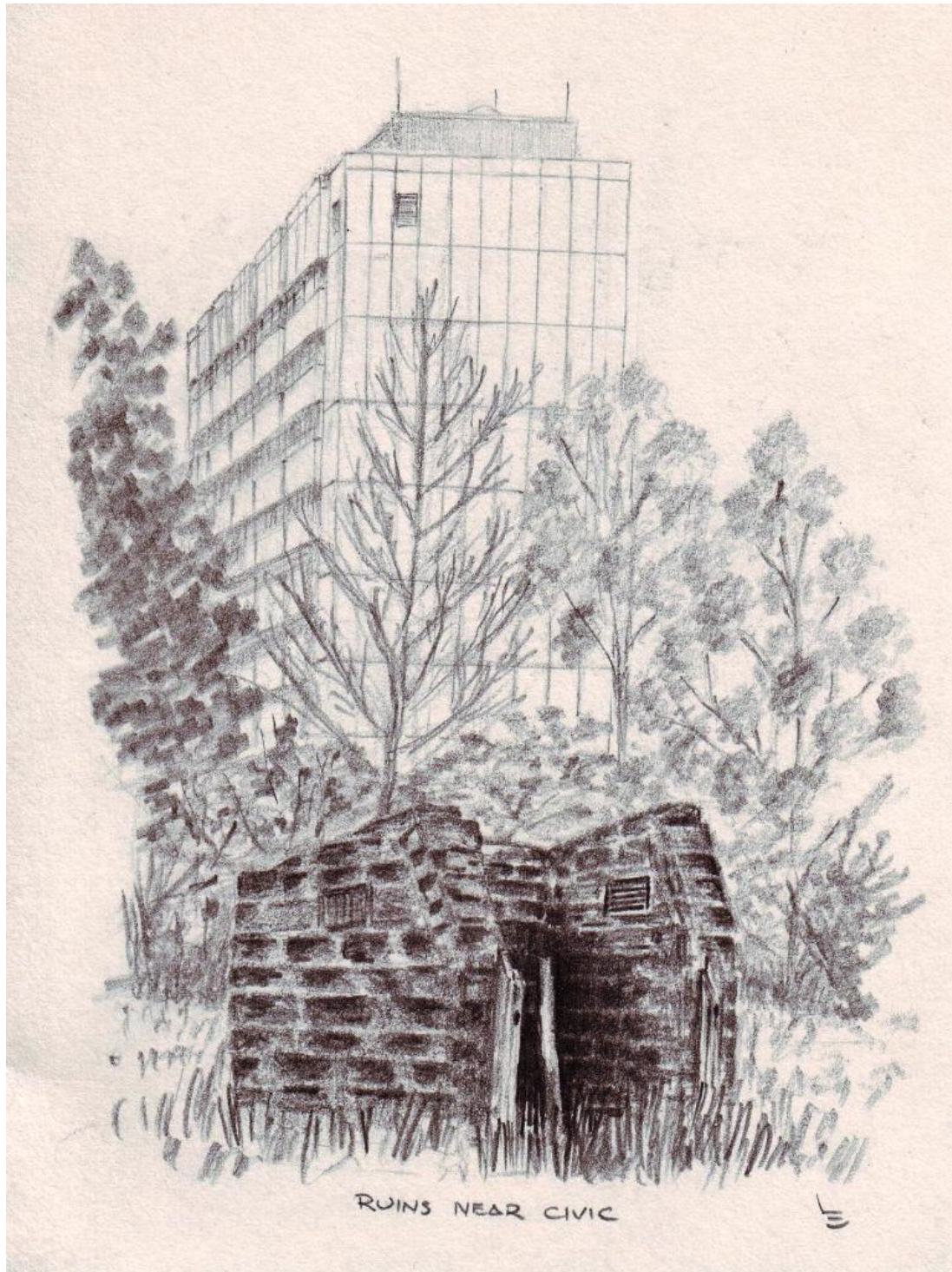
Broadcasting House on Mort Street, between Bunda and Alinga Streets, opened by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons in June 1938. It housed radio station 2CA until 1955.



*YWCA corner Mort – Alinga Str (1971)*



The Young Women's Christian Association building on the corner of Mort and Alinga Streets in Civic was opened in 1931. A new building, the Una Porter Centre, was opened on the site in March 1971.



*Ruins near Civic*

Unidentified ruins in Civic, possibly now part of Glebe Park. The building in the background appears to be Electricity House on London Circuit.

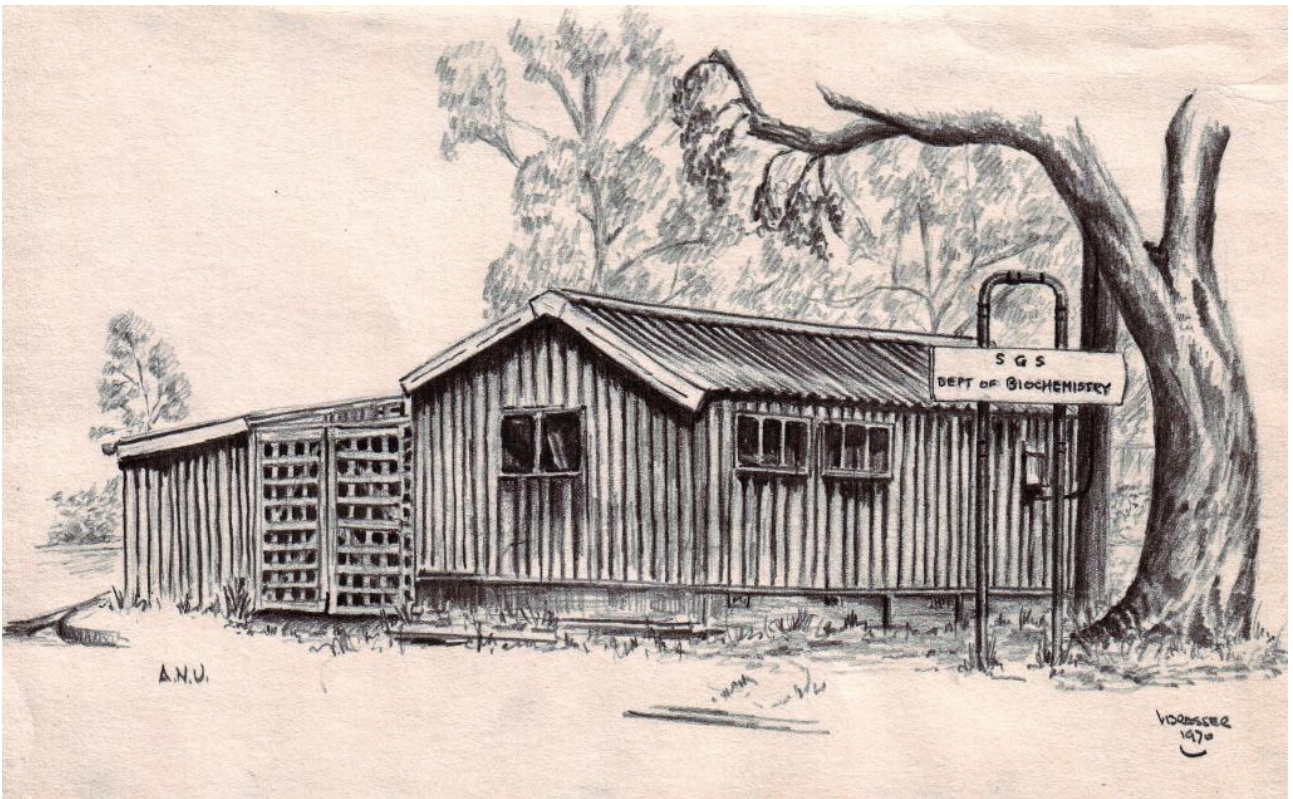




*Saraswati A.N.U. (1970)*

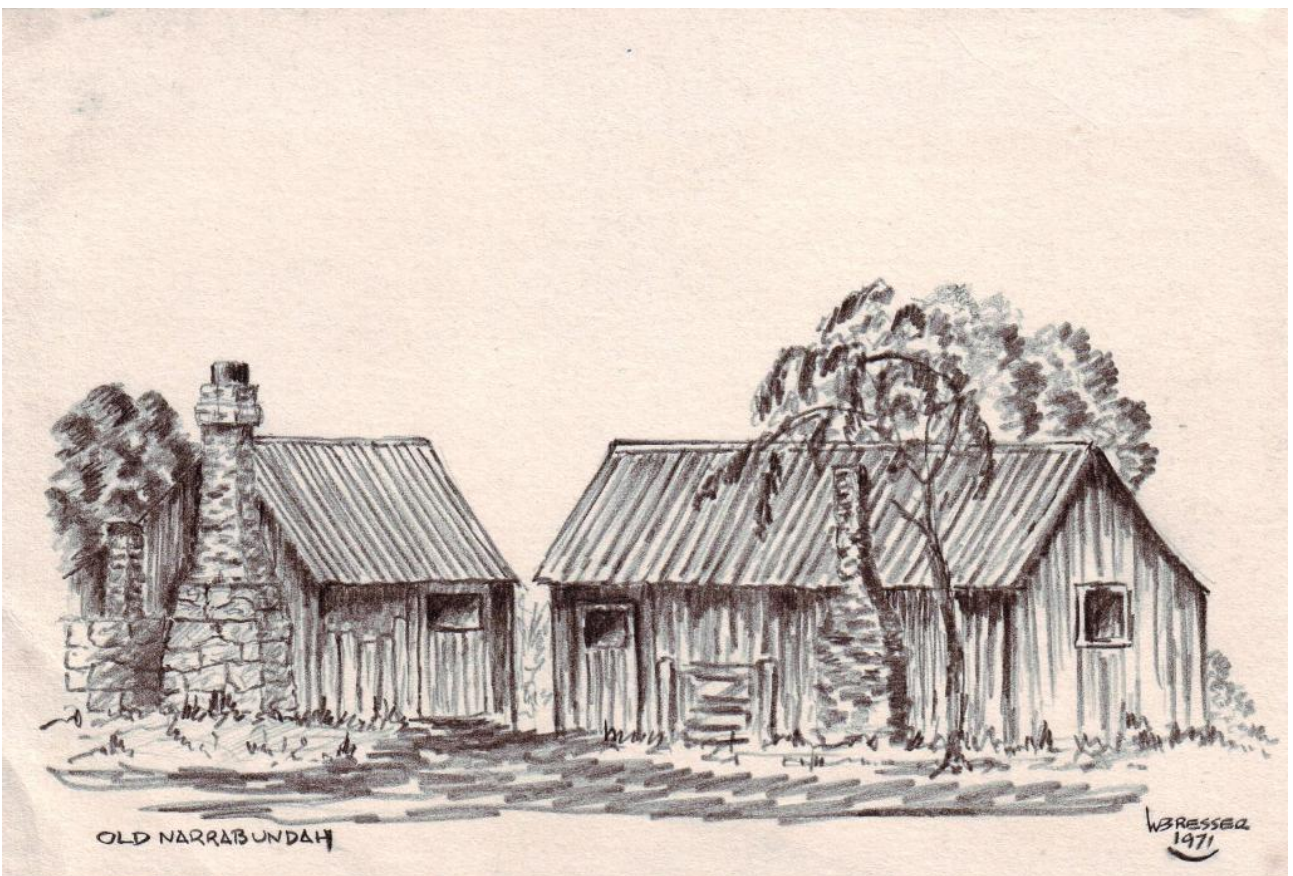
The statue of Saraswati, the Goddess of Knowledge, at the entrance to the Chancelry Building at ANU. It was donated by the Indonesian government in 1969.





*A.N.U. (1970)*

A long since demolished Department of Biochemistry shed at ANU.



*Old Narrabundah (1971)*

It is unknown where these buildings once stood.





*Springbank Farm – now Springbank Island (1971)*

Springbank was originally established by John Macpherson in 1829, leased by Joseph Kaye in 1842 and, after passing through several owners, was purchased by William Sullivan in 1889. Springbank was compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth and leased by Kaye's son Charles in 1924. The Kayes farmed the property until it was resumed for the construction of Lake Burley Griffin and the homestead demolished in 1961. Bresser probably sketched the farmhouse from a photograph.



*Rose Cottage A.C.T. (1971)*



In the 1870s Richard Harris purchased three blocks of land in Tuggeranong and built his home which still stands near the junction of the Monaro Highway and Isabella Drive. When a neighbour, Joseph John Kaye, left his Rose Farm property the Harris' called their home Rose Cottage apparently because Mrs Harris liked the name.



*Outhouse Tuggeranong (1971)*

The storeroom at Tuggeranong homestead with the maid's quarters to the right and the water tower to the left. James Cunningham used the building as an office.





*Kiosk, Cotter Dam (1970)*

In 1927 the Federal Capital Commission announced that it would build refreshment rooms at the Cotter Reserve. They opened that year in a “handsome octagonal building carried out in a rustic style with a red shingle roof”. The kiosk was demolished in about 1970.