

HISTORY AND CREATION OF HILLCREST

EARLY DEVELOPMENT - SITE HISTORY

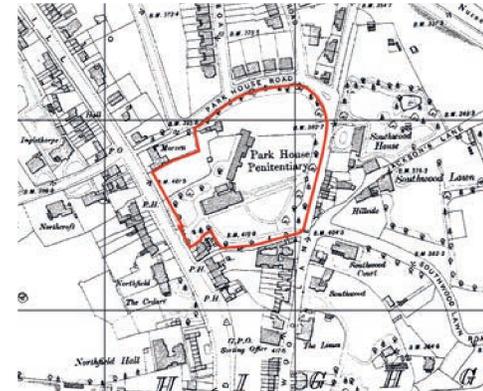
- Prior to the 19th century the Site was occupied by the Highgate brewery, owned by John Addison.
- The Site was purchased by John Cooper in the early 19th century and the brewery was dismantled. By 1815 Cooper had built a large Regency mansion, known as Park House, situated in spacious grounds.
- Park House remained a private estate until the mid 19th century, passing into the ownership of William Dodge Cooper-Cooper (brewer, magistrate and governor of Highgate School) in 1824; and to Samuel Hibbert (merchant) in 1841.
- In 1848 Park House was sold and converted into an asylum for the 'mentally deficient'.
- In 1853 the London Diocesan Penitentiary was formed for the establishment of a house for "the reception and reformation of penitent fallen women". The lease for Park House was acquired in 1855 and the building became known as Park House Penitentiary.
- By 1861 the property and adjoining land was purchased for £11,500 and a mortgage raised to meet the costs. Much of the adjoining land was later leased or sold and the money obtained was used to assist paying off the mortgage.
- By 1877 Park House Penitentiary had beds for 60 girls. In 1900 the premises was taken over by the Clewer Sisters (an Anglican female religious community) and became known as the House of Mercy in the ensuing decades.
- The Site was closed as a penitentiary in 1940 and the building was demolished to make way for the present day Hillcrest Estate.



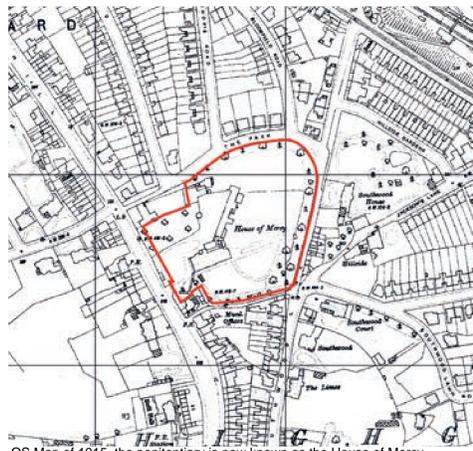
Enclosure map of 1815 – Park House occupied the area



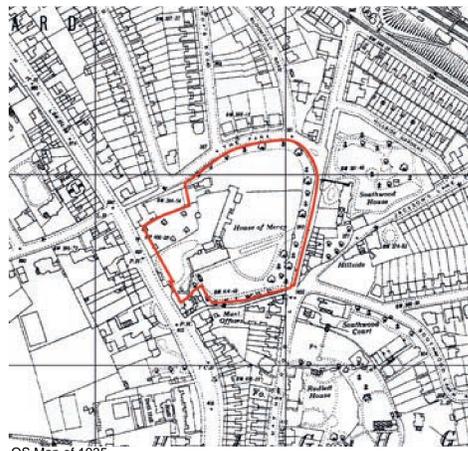
OS Map of 1870 showing Park House Penitentiary occupying the land



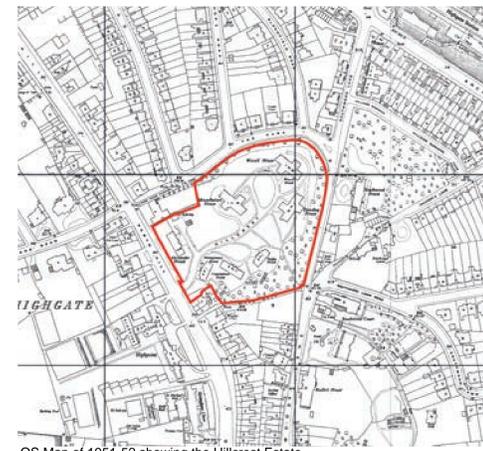
OS Map of 1896



OS Map of 1915, the penitentiary is now known as the House of Mercy



OS Map of 1935



OS Map of 1951-52 showing the Hillcrest Estate

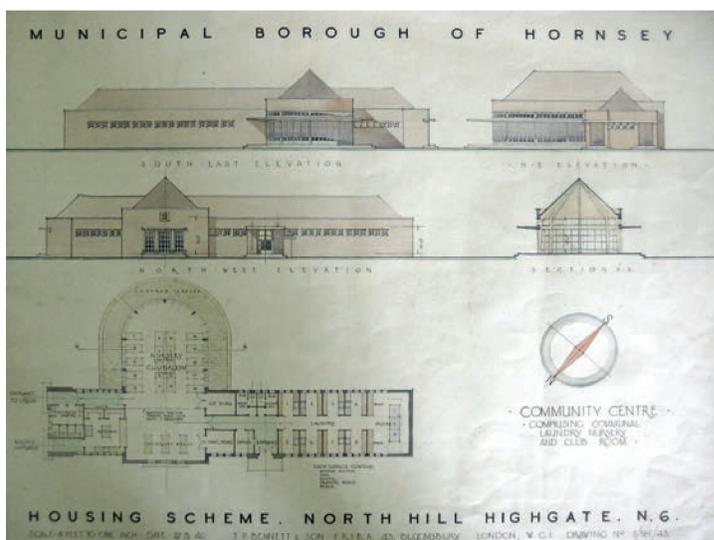
Map source: Landmark Mapping

1940s DESIGN PROPOSALS

- In the 1940s, Hornsey Borough Council commissioned architects T.P. Bennett and Son to design a residential housing estate, which would become known as Hillcrest.
- Four different design schemes for the estate were produced before arriving at a final design.
- The cost of each scheme was calculated on a 'cost per room' basis, enabling the architects to decide that the best and most economical layout was a mixture of seven 4-storey and 7-storey blocks of flats.

- Two versions of the final scheme were designed, one of which included a community centre between Tedder House and Dowding House, which was not built. The final designs also showed garages between Alexander House and Mountbatten House. These additions were not built due to financial constraints.
- The 4-storey blocks were initially intended to have pitched roofs, however their design was changed to flat roofs due to insufficient timber allocation to provide a pitched roof.

Image source: Haringey Archives



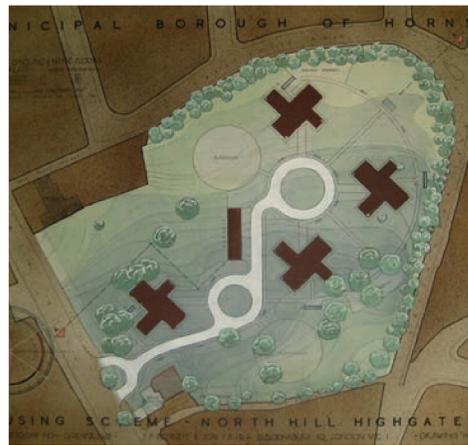
Proposal for the community centre



Perspective - Proposal for Hillcrest Estate



Scheme 1: detached 4-storey blocks covering much of the land, dated 1945.



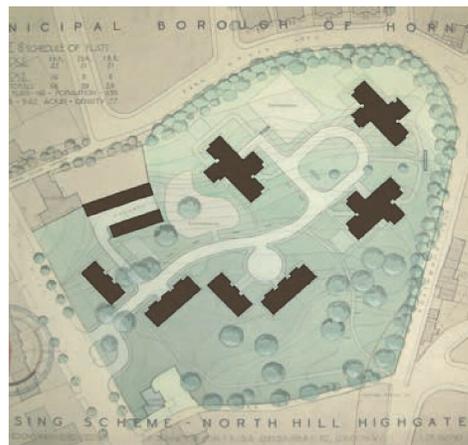
Scheme 2: 9-storey blocks sited on the most level areas of land, dated 1945.



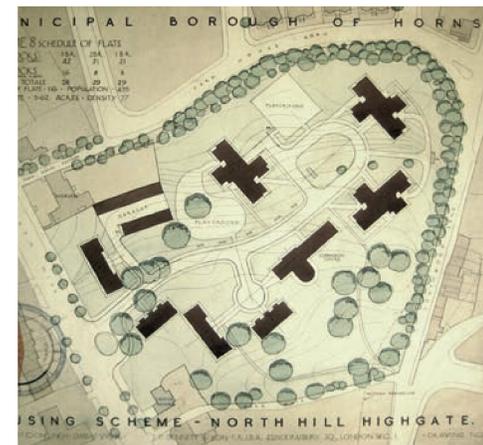
Scheme 3: 7-storey blocks sited on the most level areas of land, dated 1945.



Scheme 4: Long 6-storey blocks, dated 1945.



Scheme 8: Version 1 of the final scheme, dated 1945. The layout is almost identical to what is present today.



Scheme 8: Version 2 of the final scheme, dated 1946, showing a community centre between Tedder House and Dowding House.

Proposal of elevations of the blocks on the Hillcrest Estate