

SHOP AND RESIDENCE,
756-8 HEIDELBERG ROAD.

Alphington Village was created from Charles William Roemer's original Crown Portion 120, of 1840. James Manning purchased the lot from the Sydney-based Roemer in 1841, completing the purchase in 1852. Two years later, William Montague Manning, who was Solicitor General of New South Wales, and James' brother, began selling village allotments along Heidelberg Road and large pastoral lots near the Yarra and the Dargbin Creek. One such block was sold with another to John Mason, in 1853, for one hundred and thirty five pounds and sometime in the late 1850's or early 1860's, 756-8 Heidelberg Road was constructed.

In 1863, Thomas King(s) owned it as a butcher's shop and dwelling, with a slaughter house and yards on the east, whilst Richard King owned a baker's shop to the west which was leased to Quest and Ball among others. John Sharp Adams owned a store further to the east as did Thomas E. Bear lease out a wine shop to almost complete the village shops of the 1860's.

The building appears to have undergone improvements in 1865 and, in 1868, but otherwise King owned and

occupied it until its purchase by John Woolcock in c1879. King still operated the slaughter yard next door. Sam Whittaker took it in the 1880's; returning to Woolcock, or his executors, who leased it to butchers such as John Cougle, F. K. Vizard and Arthur E. Wortley. William Eldridge tenanted the building in 1935.

756 Heidelberg Road and the former Methodist Church, are all that remain of the Alphington Village of the 1850-60's. 756 Heidelberg Road hence is of great historical importance to the Northcote Municipality and the Heidelberg Road as perhaps the oldest commercial building, excluding hotels, surviving on the road, east of its commencement at the former Plenty Road (High Street).

756 Heidelberg Road is a two level coursed basalt shop and residence. It possesses a basalt cornice and three arched and keystoned windows in the upper level; these are formed in bricks. A cantilever verandah and signs have been added and the shop-front and interior altered but the basic fabric of the building is clearly seen.

