

HENDERSON'S SEEDS

Place No. 63

ADDRESS	157 Templestowe Road Templestowe	Last Update 5/05/2005												
DESCRIPTION	<p>Henderson's Seeds at 157 Templestowe Road, Templestowe comprises a complex of buildings surrounded by a wide expanse of growing areas laid out in plots running north-south between Templestowe Road and the Yarra River with a raised irrigation sprinkler system. The buildings and related structures comprise a small number of poly-tunnels and infrastructure relating to harvest and despatch activities including the administration office, a storage/loading shed with truck-docking access, machinery and equipment sheds. Thie site contains both current and obsolete machinery such as ploughs.</p> <p>The land is owned by Parks Victoria which compulsorily acquired it 15 years ago from the Henderson family.</p> <table><tr><td>Condition</td><td>-</td><td>Integrity</td><td>Not known</td></tr><tr><td>Threats</td><td></td><td>Key elements</td><td>Market garden</td></tr><tr><td>Designer</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr></table>		Condition	-	Integrity	Not known	Threats		Key elements	Market garden	Designer			
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HISTORY	<p>This seed-growing farm on the Yarra River at Templestowe has been operated for over 50 years by the Henderson family. It forms an important part of the market gardening history of the district and of Manningham City. Another Manningham property associated with market gardening is at 35 Templestowe Road, Bulleen. This property was owned by the Negri family of market gardeners from the 1930s (1). Many district families grew their own vegetables but the Hendersons looked far beyond local or district markets.</p> <p>In June 1951, Raymond Franklin Henderson and his brother, Ernest Frederick Henderson, purchased 10 acres of land on the north side of Templestowe Road. This was originally part of the 1841 Unwin's Special Survey. The land acquired by the Hendersons was purchased from Frank and Gordon Hodgson, dairy farmers (2). In April 1960, the Hendersons acquired adjoining allotments of 6 and 8 acres in the area, once again from the Hodgson family (3). In 1974, Shirley and Raymond Henderson purchased a further 21 acres adjoining the original lots (4).</p> <p>The story of 'Henderson's Seeds', as the family market garden business is still known, is an interesting one. Over the years, its operations extended far beyond the district, the State and, indeed, Australia. Raymond Henderson, one of the founders, recently told consultants the story of this successful family business. After completing an Agricultural Science degree in 1945, Raymond worked until about 1950 for the Department of Agriculture, researching vegetable seed production. After the purchase of the 10 acres of land at Templestowe, Raymond and his brother, who died 5 years ago, formed a fraternal partnership, which lasted 45 years. In 1964, after an overseas trip, 'Seed Breeders Australia' was formed as a joint venture with Yates, a major business rival. Later, in 1970, the Henderson brothers left this partnership and formed their own company, 'Southern Cross Seeds'.</p> <p>In more recent years the Henderson brothers worked with similar seed growing companies in Japan. Working with Japanese companies in about 1975, they sold their seeds, which included hybrid cauliflowers, all around the world.</p> <p>About 15 years ago, Parks Victoria became the owner of the Templestowe site. It is currently leased to the Hendersons Seed Group, still known locally as 'Henderson's Seeds'. This lease has solved many of the problems encountered by Parks Victoria with other properties, which have become increasingly difficult to maintain. Parks Victoria is said to be happy to have 'Henderson's Seeds' as tenants of the Templestowe Road land (5).</p> <p>Another member of the Henderson family, who became a prominent Manningham resident, is Meg Henderson, architect, builder and garden designer. Meg designed and built her own home at 232 Greenslopes Drive, Templestowe in 1960 and the Bill Snell House at 1 Fran Court, Templestowe in c1963 (6). Meg is one of the few women designers of her generation who also acted as a builder and landscape designer. In a recent publication, Meg 'told how she and her husband became interested in the Templestowe area in the late 1940s. She explained that when her husband was choosing a site for his agricultural business, the Henderson Seed Company farm, ... she was</p>													

instantly attracted to the undeveloped, open spaces close to the Yarra River' (7).

SOURCES

- [1] Manningham Heritage Study Place no.66.
- (2) Certificate of Title Vol 8268 Fol 827; Ray Henderson, pers.comm., 4 June 2005.
- (3) Ibid and Certificate of Title Vol 6268 Fol 828.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Ray Henderson, pers. comm., 4 June 2005.
- (6) Pertzel and Andrews, op. cit., pp. 155, 156.
- (7) Ibid, pp. 116-118.

Creation Date c.1950-70

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Hendersons Seeds

5.02 - Orchards & market gardens

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The Henderson's Seeds complex, originally established in 1951, at 157 Templestowe Road, Templestowe.

How is it Significant?

Henderson's Seeds is of local historic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

Henderson's Seeds has local historic significance as a rare surviving example of the market gardens once so prevalent in the City of Manningham, as an innovative business drawing on agricultural science knowledge with a national and even international scope, and as a family-owned and run business still in the hands of its founding family, the Hendersons. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2 and H.1)

LEVEL

Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO		Recommended

Extent To the extent of the buildings as shown in Appendix E of the Manningham Heritage Study Review Volume 1: Key Findings and Recommendations report.

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, Manningham City Council, Doncaster