

OAK TREES

			Place No.	242
ADDRESS	10 Launder's Avenue Wonga Park		Last Update	
DESCRIPTION	Two large oak trees, one located on the front boundary and a second with a Queensland Box (<i>Lophostemon conferta</i>) located near the rear boundary of this vacant property.			
	Condition	Good	Integrity	Intact
	Threats	None apparent	Key elements	
	Designer			
HISTORY	<p>Two large oak trees, said to have been planted at the same time as those in White Lodge, are located on this property. The acorns are said to have been brought out from Scotland, from Inverbervie, the Couper family's home town, and planted on their property.[1]</p> <p>Another story is that the oak trees were planted by George Launder, lessee of the property in Crown Allotment 9F (an Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement (EHPS) property) in the early 1890s from acorns he brought from England.[2] Launder, a carpenter and builder, was an eight hours pioneer and in 1896 was the Secretary of the Eight Hours Pioneers Association.[3] In July 1893, Launder applied for the lease of the 51 acres in 9F. By June 1899, substantial improvements totalling 304 pounds had been made to the property. There was a 5-roomed weatherboard and iron dwelling with a smaller 3-roomed house of brick and bark, a wood and iron stable, brick, iron and bark dairy, and other outbuildings. Five acres had been “planted in fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs and bulbs” (which Mrs Blanche Read recalls as bearing fruit in 1900). By this time Launder’s address was given as Clerk of Works at Croydon or 464 Bourke Street, Melbourne.[4] The Bourke Street buildings are shown as next to St Patrick’s Hall on the west side and Hughes Monumental Works on the east side.[5]</p> <p>It was noted in 1899 that Launder’s sister, Mrs Wills, was looking after his Wonga Park land for him, and that William Webb, married to his niece, was occupying 13 acres of 9F.[6] This portion of land was the site of Forest Gate (now White Lodge) at 19 Yarra Road. The second three-roomed dwelling listed in the 1899 report on Launder’s property was most probably the earliest dwelling on the part of the property later owned by Coopers and then Uptons.</p> <p>The Launder's house was owned and lived in by the Upton family; the mud brick dwelling, nearby well and shady oak tree is well remembered. [12]</p> <p>The former Launder property is believed to contain the site of Couper’s fruit cannery that operated there prior to the First World War.[7] Shire of Lillydale rate records confirm that in 1908 James George Kipps, a Croydon orchardist, was the owner/occupier of a house and 40 acres of land, part of 9F, with a valuation of 22 pounds. Kipps was there still in 1910/11.[8] However, by 1915, a new owner, James Duncan Couper, orchardist, was rated. Couper was there still in 1918-19.[9] There is no mention of a cannery.</p> <p>Local sources record that Couper built a ‘mud shed’ (that is, mud brick) which served as the cannery. Local produce was peeled, sliced and processed before canning. The cannery closed during World War 1 due to a shortage of tins.[10] A search of the local press and directories might provide more information about the cannery. George Upton recalls this building. It consisted of two large rooms, and was demolished around 1934. [11]</p> <p>The property was purchased by Arthur John Upton in 1921. George Upton advises that the oak tree at the rear of the block was fully grown at that time, and believes that the tree along Launder's Avenue is more recent, perhaps around 60 years old. The Upton's house was built to the east of the large oak at the rear boundary, on what is now 8 Launder's Avenue. It does not survive. [11]</p>			
	Creation Date	1890s	Change Dates	
	Associations			
	George Launder, Couper's fruit cannery,	5.03 - Eight hour pioneer settlement		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The two large oak trees and nearby Queensland Box have local significance for their associations with George Launder, Secretary of the Eight Hour Pioneers Association, who is thought to have planted it when he farmed the site in the early 1890s. This site is also of historical significance as the location of a cannery run during the First World War period by James Duncan Couper, orchardist. (Criterion A4, H1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

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

Extra Research

- BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- [1] Workshop Place 5, recalling information contained in a letter held by the school.
 - [2] Discover Wonga Park, Places Nos. 10 and 13.
 - [3] W.E. Murphy, History of the Eight Hours Movement, 1896.
 - [4] Land File No.11518/42; John Upton relating information from Mrs Blanche Read.
 - [5] MMBW Detail Plan City of Melbourne No.1016.
 - [6] Land File 11518/42.
 - [7] Discover Wonga Park, Place No.10.
 - [8] Shire of Lillydale RB 1908-9 No.1705; 1910-11 No.1760.
 - [9] Shire of Lillydale RB 1915-16 No.2092; 1918-19 No.2359.
 - [10] Discover Wonga Park, Place No. 10.
 - [11] George Upton, correspondence 15/2/97
 - [12] John Upton and Margaret Fankhauser