

HOUSE

Ice Cream Shop (former)

Place No. 258

ADDRESS 3-5 Old Yarra Road
Wonga Park

Last Update 1/04/2005

DESCRIPTION This building has been demolished. It was described in the Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study (1991) as follows:

'A timber house, said to date from pre-1917, has been substantially altered. Its current appearance suggests that the house was altered in the late 1940s or 1950s, converted the roof-line from a pitched to a flat roof and replacing the windows. A centrally placed window, to the left of the front door, is said to have served as the shop window. A skillion section added to the left hand side of the main section of the house is also said to have been associated with its use as an ice-cream shop.[2]

Condition Demolished

Integrity Demolished

Threats Demolition

Key elements

Designer

HISTORY

The Fitton family was associated with a number of buildings constructed on the former Ice Cream Shop site, and a row of cypress trees planted along Yarra Road to the south of this site.[1] Mr E. Fitton tells how his father, uncle and grandfather came from England to settle in Wonga Park in 1913. His father, who had served an apprenticeship with General Electric in England, later worked for the Post Master General's Department. His uncle later went to live in Surrey Road, Blackburn. His nephew helped to make the concrete blocks for his uncle's new house.[2]

The site of the former ice cream shop is indicated as part of Lot 51 on a surveyor's plan of the 1897 subdivision of the Wonga Park Estate. The name 'Fitton' is pencilled in over this allotment of 43 acres.[3]

The first Fitton house was an 'original wattle and daub house, built in three parts'. This later fell down. Said to have been built from clay dug out of the hillside this was most probably the home of 'Grandpa' Fitton.[4] This house was also known locally as 'The Old Mud Hut' or 'The Swallows Nest'.[5] Grandpa Fitton also reputedly planted a row of cypress trees in 1914 which still line a section of Yarra Road.[6]

Mr E. Fitton, Alfred Fitton's grandson, says that the house where he was born in 1917 was a later house.[7] Myrtle Slade, a local resident and daughter of Samuel Frederick Brown, (once owner of the nearby Coolibah property in Arunga Drive), said in her 1989 reminiscences that she remembered "the later house where we could purchase drinks etc. after tennis/cricket".[8] It was to this later house that the shop was added, on the left-hand side, and where Mrs Bill Fitton sold ice cream between 1925 and 1929. Her husband at the time worked in the city.[9]

A search of the rating of Lot 51 in Shire of Lillydale records confirmed that there was a Fitton house on Lot 51 at least from 1916-1917. Alf Fitton, merchant, was listed as owner/occupier of this house valued at 10 pounds. The valuation increased to 12 pounds in 1917-18 and to 18 pounds in 1920-21.[10]

From 1924 a house and shed are listed on the 26 acres in Lot 51. Henry Fitton, telephone mechanic, was rated for the house on 8.2 acres, while William Fitton, listed as orchardist, was rated for the shed on 9 acres. Both structures were rated at 12 pounds. No house was listed Alfred Fitton's eight acres.[11] This may have been the site of the original house.

From 1926 three Fitton houses were rated on Lot 51, each with a valuation of 10 pounds. They were rated to Alfred Fitton, orchardist; William Fitton, orchardist; and Henry Fitton, mechanic, of Cave Hill Road, Lillydale. By the early 1930s, William Fitton was rated for the house on 8.2 acres owned by the Estate of the late Alfred Fitton, as well as his own house on 9 acres. Henry Fitton was listed as owner/occupier of the third house on 8.2 acres.[12] Research into the post-1939 period has not been possible as the Shire of Lillydale ratebooks are in storage and not currently available.

SOURCES

- [1] Discover Wonga Park. Places Nos. 2 and 3.
- [2] Mr E. Fitton, pers. comm.
- [3] Wonga Park near Ringwood. Tuxen Bros., Surveyors, 1897.
- [4] Mr E. Fitton; Discover Wonga Park. Place No. 2.
- [5] Slade MSS.
- [6] Discover Wonga Park. Place No. 2.
- [7] Mr E. Fitton, pers. comm.
- [8] Slade MSS.
- [9] Mr E. Fitton, pers. comm.
- [10] Shire of Lillydale RB 1916-17 South West Riding No. 2326; 1917-18 No. 2564; 1920-21; No. 2864.
- [11] Shire of Lillydale RB 1924-25 Nos. 3218, 3219; No. 3217.
- [12] Shire of Lillydale RB 1926-27 Nos. 3606, 3607, 3608; 1930-31 Nos. 5466, 5467, 5468.

Creation Date pre-1917

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Fitton family

6.04 - Local commerce & industry

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Demolished

LEVEL Demolished

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