

ORCHARD HOUSE, DAMS, TREES AND PINE WINDBREAK

Upton House

Place No. 252

ADDRESS - Upton Court
Wonga Park

Last Update 23/03/2005

DESCRIPTION Elements of the Upton orchard property remain in Upton Court. The house, on the corner of Jumping Creek Road, dates from around 1950. The house is L-shaped, timber-framed and externally rendered, and has a tiled, gabled roof. A pergola extends across part of the main facade. The house is set within a small garden containing a small African Lacebark, Norfolk Island Pine, cedar and eucalypts. At the rear of the house were the cool stores, recently removed.

A group of pine trees, planted for mill timber, have been retained within a public reserve (Arthur Upton Reserve). The reserve also contains three large dams, built to serve the orchard.

Condition Demolished **Integrity** Demolished

Threats **Key elements** Buildings
Tree(s)

Designer

HISTORY This house is located on part of the original Crown Allotment 9F owned by George Launder, founder of the Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement. This allotment, of more than 50 acres, extended from Launder's Avenue through to Jumping Creek Road. When he applied for the 51 acres in Crown Allotment 9F in August 1893, the Shire of Lillydale appealed claiming that the land should be "withheld from selection and gazetted a Reserve for Public Purposes". However, Launder was successful in his application.[2]

In about 1899, a Launder relative, Emma Webb, was permitted to occupy 13 acres of 9F, which became the site of the Webb's White Lodge guest house.[3] The remaining 40 acres was owned in 1908 by James George Kipps, a Croydon orchardist. By the First World War period, J. D. Cooper, orchardist, owned this 40 acres. [4] Arthur J. Upton purchased Cooper's orchard property in 1921.[5]

The present house was built around 1950. It is said to have been the third house built on the orchard property. This part of the Upton property was not developed for orcharding until the late 1940s. Until then it was a natural bush paddock, the main centre of orcharding activities being in Launder's Avenue. [7] The dams were constructed in the 1950s/60s to supply additional water for the orchards. [8]

Still an operating orchard until recent years, the Upton orchard was closed about 1990. The property is now being re-subdivided. Farm equipment and cool stores have been relocated to the Upton's new property at Coldstream.[8]

SOURCES

[1] Victoria and its Metropolis, Vol. 2, p.523.

[2] Land File 11518/44.

[3] Land File 11518/44.

[4] Shire of Lillydale RB 1908-09 SW Riding No. 1705; 1915-16. No. 2092.

[5] John Upton, pers. comm.

[6] John Upton, pers. comm.

[7] George Upton, correspondence 15/2/97

[8] John Upton, pers. comm.

Creation Date -

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Upton orchard

5.02 - Orchards & market gardens

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of local interest as an example of a district orchard property associated with the Upton family and retaining one house, some trees and large dams, provides evidence of this historically significant land-use which is rapidly being lost from the district. (RNE criterion B2, H1)

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 Context Pty Ltd, (1996), Wonga Park Heritage Study. Report on Stages 1 and 2, City of Manningham, Doncaster