

# ELDER HOUSE AND FRUIT SHED

Place No. 231

<b>ADDRESS</b>	277-79 Yarra Road (former 9090) Wonga Park	<b>Last Update</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Late Victorian/Edwardian house and shed built of rough concrete blocks on rubble stone footings. The concrete blocks are said to have been made on-site. It has a hipped, corrugated iron roof, and a verandah extending around three sides (now mostly enclosed). Vermiculated quoins, also concrete block, mark the corners, window and door openings.</p> <p>The fruit shed (1) comprises three spaces; a hipped roof section, and two rooms under a skillion roof. One of these rooms has a fireplace suggesting the building may have incorporated quarters for orchard hand/s.</p> <p>The house and shed and some mature plantings on a large site. The orchard plantings have been removed.</p> <p><b>Condition</b> Deteriorated <b>Integrity</b> Minor modifications</p> <p><b>Threats</b> Deteriorated <b>Key elements</b></p> <p><b>Designer</b></p>		
<b>HISTORY</b>	<p>This property has a long association with the Elder family of orchardists.[1] William Elder, a Doncaster East fruitgrower and orchardist, became the owner at the turn of the century of more than twelve blocks of land in Crown Allotment 14, totalling 286 acres. He purchased them from the Crown Grantee, John Buchan.[2] These allotments west of Yarra Road were bounded on the north by St. Johns Street and on the south by Gatters Road.</p> <p>A house was rated to William Elder the following year.[3] Later evidence suggests that this house was located on southern allotments 14V and 14W on Gatters Road.[4] The house at 24 Yarra Road is located on 14K.</p> <p>By 1908 the Elder's Wonga Park property had been subdivided. William retained his house on 146 acres. David John Elder had 40 acres in the NW corner; Thomas William had 40 acres in the NE corner; and W.S. Elder had 40 acres on the south side. These three blocks had valuations of only six pounds each and were obviously vacant land.[5]</p> <p>According to the 1918-19 rate records, following William's death, William Sydney Elder, orchardist, became the owner of the house and 39 acres in 14V and 14 W, and 14 acres of vacant land in 14J and 14K. The house block was valued at 50 pounds, and 14J and 14K at only 16 pounds.[6] By 1920, W.S. Elder, listed as orchardist of Yarra Road, Croydon, was the owner and occupier of a house (now known as 24 Yarra Road) on the 40 acres in 14J and K valued at 70 pounds. He was listed again for this property in 1924.[7]</p> <p>Although the rate book evidence seems to suggest that this house was not built until 1920, the mature trees on the property may relate to the earlier turn of the century ownership of the site by William Elder.</p> <p><b>SOURCES</b></p> <p>[1] Workshop Place 10.</p> <p>[2] Shire of Lillydale RB 1901-2 No.1893 NAV 33 pounds, and note at end of rate book.</p> <p>[3] Shire of Lillydale RB 1902-3 No.1336 NAV 44 pounds.</p> <p>[4] Shire of Lillydale RB 1918-19 No.2542.</p> <p>[5] Shire of Lillydale RB 1908-9 Nos.1472, 1473, 1474, 1475.</p> <p>[6] Shire of Lillydale RB 1918-19 Nos.2542, 2543.</p> <p>[7] Shire of Lillydale RB 1920-21 No.2805; 1924-25 No.3165</p> <p><b>Creation Date</b> 1920 <b>Change Dates</b></p> <p><b>Associations</b> <b>Local Themes</b></p> <p>Elder family 5.02 - Orchards &amp; market gardens</p>		

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** Of local significance as a farm house and fruit shed, the home of the Elder family of fruit growers and orchardists, providing rare evidence of early fruit packing/storage facilities in the district. The mature trees may relate to the turn of the century ownership of the property by William Elder, Doncaster East fruit grower and orchardist. (Criterion B2, D2, H1)

## LEVEL

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
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None Specified

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#### 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

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Context Pty Ltd, (1997), Wonga Park Heritage Study (Report on Stages 1 and 2), Manningham City Council, Doncaster