

Glenfern
10 Amberley Court, Bulleen.

Glenfern, an early farmhouse, was built in 1863¹, or earlier for Alfred Millwater Caldecott, who arrived in Australia in 1849 from England. He was employed as an accountant in the Immigration Office² RGO records confirm that in 1858 Caldecott purchased the site of Glenfern (74 acres along the Koonung Creek) from Robert Campbell, the NSW squatter who subdivided the Carlton Estate. This Estate was originally in 1842 part of Unwin's Special Survey of 5120 acres, which was transferred in 1844 to James Atkinson of the Belfast Special Survey fame³ An 1874 Crown Lands Department plan of the Parish of Bulleen shows Caldecott's Bulleen property which extended down to the Koonung Creek and was bounded on the east by Doyles Road (now Ayr Street).⁴ Caldecott purchased a number of other allotments in the Carlton estate in 1860 and 1862.⁵

Although it has been suggested that Caldecott, who married in 1855, built Glenfern in the late 1850s soon after his purchase of the site,⁶ new evidence suggests that it is more likely to date from the early 1860s. A document held by the late J. D. Campbell, architect, records the death of a Caldecott son (born at Richmond in 1856) in February 1860 at Bulleen.⁷ This suggests that there was some kind of Caldecott dwelling at Bulleen at this time. However, the present symmetrical Italianate house was more probably built in 1863 when Caldecott mortgaged his Bulleen lands to the Second Union Building Society for 1800 pounds, a sum repaid in October 1864.⁸ This was an accepted method for financing the construction of buildings during the Victorian period. The Trustees of the building society chosen by Caldecott, Ambrose Kyte and Moses Rintel, were associated with many such transactions in Melbourne and beyond. Caldecott, himself, was a vice-president and treasurer of the National Building and Investment Company in 1865.⁹ Templestowe District Road Board's earliest 1863 rate records confirm that by that date Alfred Caldecott owned a house and farm on Kennedy's (later Koonung) Creek with a substantial valuation.¹⁰ This property was identified as Glenfern Farm in 1865.¹¹

¹ Documents held by J.D.Campbell, architect. National Trust file No.1162.

² RGO Search(Caldecott), Plan of the Farm Subdivision of the Carlton Estate.R.C.Bagot,n.d.

³ RGO Search 485.

⁴ Plan of Bulleen. Parish of Bulleen. 526 B,1874.

⁵ RGO Search 485.

⁶ Context Pty Ltd., City of Doncaster and Templestowe Heritage Study, p.59

⁷ National Trust file No.1162

⁸ RGO Search 485.

⁹ National Trust File No.1162.

¹⁰ Templestowe District Board RB 1863 No.24(NAV 90)

¹¹ Templestowe District Board RB 1865 No.28 (NAV 90 pounds)

Rate records confirm that in 1871, after Caldecott left Australia to become a cotton farmer in Fiji, never to return,¹² his wife, Margaret, was left in charge of the Glenfern Farm. She was recorded as its owner and occupier in 1871-72.¹³ Rate records also confirm a transfer of the farm to Robert Outhwaite in 1873.¹⁴ Listed as a gentleman and farmer,¹⁵ Outhwaite reputedly had squatting interests. During the Outhwaite ownership valuation of the property increased suggesting some additions at this time,¹⁶ presumably the rear section. After Robert's death in 1912, Glenfern passed to E. W. Outhwaite, a Melbourne solicitor.¹⁷ Subsequent owners included Mrs M. McAuslan, Flora Jane Netheway and in 1946, H. J. Cocks. By this time Glenfern stood on 25 acres and was developed as a dairy farm. The architect, John Campbell, and his wife, Ruth, who purchased the property in 1957,¹⁸ carried out extensive and sympathetic restoration work. A current MMBW Property Sewerage Plan shows the old homestead on its present allotment in Amberley Court, the result of a 1955 subdivision¹⁹

Of regional historical significance as an 1863 or earlier farm house(now on a much reduced allotment) associated with settlement of the Bulleen district.

House

4 Beaconsfield Street Doncaster.

This weatherboard farm house with its outbuildings was associated with the early days of the Doncaster fruitgrowing industry when, Government Cool Stores were opened in Doncaster Road in March 1905.²⁰ Six years later the West Doncaster Co-Operative Cool Store was built on the corner of Beaconsfield Street and Doncaster Road. This store had a capacity of 36,000 cases and 36 local growers became members.²¹

¹² Barbara Yerondais, Glenfern, Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter, May 1982.

¹³ Templestowe District Board RB 1873 No.35 (NAV 100 pounds); 1872 No.33.

¹⁴ Templestowe District Board RB 1873 No.200 (NAV 125 pounds)

¹⁵ Shire of Bulleen rate records, Templestowe Riding.

¹⁶ Shire of Bulleen RB 1876 Templestowe Riding No.85(NAV 150 pounds).

¹⁷ Heidelberg-Doncaster and Eltham Manoeuvre Area, John Monash, 1912.M/Def.120,PROV.

¹⁸ Barbara Yerondais, Glenfern, Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter, May 1982.

¹⁹ MMBW Property Sewerage Plan No.417079; Lodge Plan 40186, 18 Nov.1955.

²⁰ Irvine Green, The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe, 1985,p.44.

²¹ Irvine Green, The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe, p.46.