

*Clay House*  
*10 Dehnert Street, Doncaster East.*

Herbert George Clay, fruitgrower, was rated first in 1909-10 for a house on 21 acres of land in Dehnert Street, on the north side of Doncaster Road.<sup>60</sup> He had owned the site since 1908.<sup>61</sup> During the First World War period Clay's father, Richard Clay, orchardist, was one of the founders of the East Doncaster Co-Operative Cool Store. This important cool store was built near the Clay house in Dehnert Street on the south side of Doncaster Road on the corner of Devon Drive<sup>62</sup> (now the site of Safeway). This cool store, built on land previously owned by the Clay family, was notable at that time as the largest cool store in Australia.<sup>63</sup> By the 1920s and 1930s, the area between Templestowe, Doncaster and Doncaster East had become an extensive and prosperous orchard district.<sup>64</sup> In the early 1940s, Herbert Clay not only owned his Dehnert Street house but also his father's former orchard house on the south side of Doncaster Road. This property was located on 36 acres stretching from Leeds Street to Blackburn Road.<sup>65</sup> Later, in the 1950s and 1960s, district orchards and cool stores ( including the East Doncaster store) gradually gave way to suburban housing.<sup>66</sup> The few remaining orchard houses , like Clay's in Dehnert Street, and some remnant orchards, are all that is left of the district's orcharding past.

*Of local historical significance* as a remaining orchard house associated with the Clay family.

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<sup>60</sup> Shire of Doncaster RB 1909-10 Doncaster Riding No.55 ( NAV 65 pounds).

<sup>61</sup> Shire of Doncaster RB 1908-9 Doncaster Riding No. 56A( NAV 52 pounds).

<sup>62</sup> Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*,

<sup>63</sup> Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p.54.

<sup>64</sup> Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p.55; Ringwood Commonwealth Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922.

<sup>65</sup> Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe Water Supply RB 1942-43 Doncaster Riding Nos. 26,27 (NAVS 95 and 118 pounds).

<sup>66</sup> Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, pp.63-64.