

Homestead

23 Hemingway Avenue, Templestowe.

Richard Serpell, a pioneering district orchardist, who arrived in colonial Victoria with his parents and two brothers¹²¹ was the first owner of this property. He was associated with its site from 1864 or earlier,¹²². Early maps show an 160 acre allotment south of Chivers (now Reynolds) Road between Serpells and Blackburn Roads owned by the brothers, Richard and Henry Serpell.¹²³ Titles Office records confirm that in 1872, Richard Serpell became the registered owner of a selection of 82 acres, the northern portion of this allotment.¹²⁴ Henry held the southern portion¹²⁵

The earliest front part of the present brick house in Hemingway Avenue, which was built for Richard Serpell on his 82 acre northern selection, dates from 1875. In that year he was rated for house and land.¹²⁶ Listed in rate records as a farmer and gardener, Serpell and his family lived in the house for the next seven years. The house increased in value in the late 1870s and early 1880s suggesting some increase in its size.¹²⁷

Titles Office records confirm that in January 1883 Serpell's property was sold to Robert Scourfield,¹²⁸ acting on behalf of Jane Jenkins.¹²⁹ From that time, the house was occupied by the family of David Jenkins, fruitgrower and orchardist¹³⁰ who became the registered owner in 1898.¹³¹ In 1890, the Jenkins home had been described as a brick house occupied by ten people on 80 acres of land between Serpells and Blackburn Roads¹³² During the Jenkins ownership, the house was substantially extended. Its increased size was reflected in the increased rating from 80 pounds in 1883 to 140 pounds in 1887 and 245 pounds in December 1890..¹³³

Of *regional historical significance* as an early building associated with Richard Serpell, one of the major pioneering orchardists in the area, and for its continuing associations with the Jenkins orcharding family for more than 110 years.

¹²¹ Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, 1985, p.7.

¹²² Templestowe District Board RB 1864 No.164.

¹²³ *Plan of Bulleen, Parish of Bulleen* Map 526 B, 1874.

¹²⁴ Crown Title vol.735 fol.146844 (Allotment 14A3, Parish of Bulleen).

¹²⁵ *Parish of Bulleen*. Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

¹²⁶ Shire of Bulleen RB 1875 No.244 (NAV 40 pounds).

¹²⁷ Shire of Bulleen RB 1879 No.228 (NAV 50 pounds); 1883 No.242 (NAV 62 pounds).

¹²⁸ Crown Title vol.1421 fol.284011.

¹²⁹ Jane was reputedly Scourfield's sister. Scourfield, it has been suggested was the Jenkins' solicitor.

¹³⁰ Shire of Bulleen RB 1883 No.193 (NAV 80 pounds).

¹³¹ Shire of Doncaster RB Templestowe Riding No.166.

¹³² Shire of Doncaster RB 1890 Templestowe Riding No.149.

¹³³ Shire of Bulleen RB 1883 Templestowe Riding No.193; 1887 No.221; 1890 No.149.