

A second house was built on the Wetherby Road land for Williams' son, John.¹⁵⁰ By the turn of the century, William S. Williams and his son, John, fruitgrowers, were rated for two houses on 138 acres of land in Leeds Street and Wetherby Road with a combined valuation of 200 pounds.¹⁵¹ Williams and his wife, Anne, who bought a winter house at Manly in Queensland in 1909, both died in the 1909-1910 period.¹⁵² After his father's death, John Williams, orchardist, became the owner of the Leeds Street and Wetherby Road properties.¹⁵³ John lived in the newer Wetherby Road house. His daughter, Alice, who was married to William Zelius, dentist, lived in the old Leeds Street house.¹⁵⁴

The Williams family houses on either side of Leeds Street, the extensive orchard, and the dam on the southern part of the Wetherby Road land, are all shown on a 1920s Army map of the area.¹⁵⁵

Of *regional historical significance* as an early Victorian timber farmhouse on a property associated with the pioneering fruitgrowing Williams family, from 1858.

House

2 McLeod Street (SE Corner Hender Street), Doncaster.

Early maps and subdivisional plans confirm that the site of this turn of the century house once formed part of a large farm allotment owned in the 1850s by Thomas Petty, pioneer settler and orchardist. This allotment was on the south side of Doncaster Road and stretched down to Wilson Road. It was one of the c1850 farm subdivisions purchased by Petty from the Carlton Estate.¹⁵⁶

Petty, a weaver from Bradford in England, came to Doncaster in 1853 and, after his purchase of the land on Doncaster Road, commenced fruitgrowing there.¹⁵⁷ His large allotment is shown on an 1874 map.¹⁵⁸ By this decade, Petty was numbered among the successful district fruitgrowers.¹⁵⁹ In the 1880s and 1890s, he was one of the local growers who exported fruit, mainly pears, to England. Later, in 1902, Petty was associated with the construction of the Government Cool Store in Doncaster Road.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁰ RGO Search 5509, *W.S. Williams House, Leeds Street*, from Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter, May 1972.

¹⁵¹ Shire of Doncaster RB 1902-1903 Nos.363-364.

¹⁵² Doncaster Templestowe Newsletter, May 1977.

¹⁵³ Doncaster Templestowe Newsletter, May 1977.

¹⁵⁴ Doncaster Templestowe Newsletter, May 1977.

¹⁵⁵ *Ringwood*. Military Survey prep. Australian Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922.

¹⁵⁶ *Plan of the Farm Subdivision of the Carlton Estate* R.C.Bagot, c.1850.

¹⁵⁷ Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p.7.

¹⁵⁸ *Plan of Bulleen*, Parish of Bulleen, Plan 526 B, 1874.

¹⁵⁹ Irvine Green, pp.32-33(map showing the first district fruitgrowers in the 1870s).

¹⁶⁰ Irvine Green, pp.19,44-45(illustration).

The Petty land acquired in the 1850s had been subdivided by the 1890s.¹⁶¹ However, the family continued to own houses and orchard land along Doncaster Road. Described as "Doncaster's most active and progressive fruit grower," Petty bought and developed orchards on nineteen different properties in Doncaster and Templestowe. Park Orchards, his most ambitious project, contained 80 orchard blocks, ten dams and 559 acres.¹⁶²

The McLeod Street house on 16 acres on the south side of Doncaster Road was rated first in the 1900-1901 Shire of Doncaster records. It was a Petty-owned house occupied by fruitgrower, Jacob Smith, reputedly Petty's nephew.¹⁶³ By 1908 the house was owned by John Petty. Rated in Wilson's Road, it was occupied still by Smith.¹⁶⁴

In 1911 John was elected as one of the first directors of the West Doncaster Cool Store (a co-operative venture) on the corner of Doncaster Road and Beaconsfield Street. His father, Tom, who had been active in establishing this cool store, retired in 1913.¹⁶⁵

Army maps of 1912 and 1922 showed the Petty land around the Macleod Street property as part of an extensive orchard district.¹⁶⁶

Of local historical significance for its associations with the Petty orchards.

¹⁶¹ *Parish of Bulleen*, Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

¹⁶² Irvine Green, p.53.

¹⁶³ Shire of Doncaster RB 1900-1901 No.302 (NAV 25 pounds).

¹⁶⁴ Shire of Doncaster RB 1908-1909 No.305 (NAV 40 pounds). Smith reputedly worked for Petty.

¹⁶⁵ Irvine Green, pp.46,53,60(illustration).

¹⁶⁶ *Sketch Map of Heidelberg-Doncaster Manoeuvre Area*, J.Monash, 1912;
Ringwood, Military Survey Map prep. Australian Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922.