

Land developers were not only encouraged to introduce the new system by the lowering of costs but by the realisation that market prices for land sales were increased as a result of the environmental effect of the absence of poles and overhead wires in the streets.

By the late 1970s, the pioneering role of the municipality was acknowledged throughout Australia. And, in 1979, the City Electrical Engineer was appointed to a national committee for the standardisation of underground residential reticulation practices.³¹¹

Of Regional historical significance as one of the first residential land subdivisions in Victoria where an innovative underground electrical system was introduced by a municipality and later developed as a model for similar schemes throughout Australia.

Plassey

891 Doncaster Rd., Doncaster East.

Martin Zelius, gentleman, was rated in 1888 for eleven acres of land in Doncaster Road.³¹² A brick house of six rooms was listed on this site for the first time in 1890.³¹³ The valuation of the Zelius home increased even more by 1892.³¹⁴ An investigation of the *Australian Architectural Index* failed to discover a designing architect for this Italianate villa.

It has been claimed that Zelius, a Norwegian, owned a restaurant in William Street, Melbourne and later was involved in the Gippsland coastal trade. He built a house of similar design at Bairnsdale prior to the construction of Plassey. However, no confirmation has been found. No listing was found for Zelius in the State Library's biographical records.

Of local historical significance as an example of the fine villas constructed for well-to-do local residents during the 1880s boom period.

South Warrandyte Hall

Hall Rd., South Warrandyte.

On "Black Friday", 13 June 1939, a devastating fire swept through South Warrandyte destroying all its public buildings, which included the South Warrandyte Hall, Post Office and State School. As well, numbers of district homes were destroyed, including

³¹¹ Anderson, pp.38-40.

³¹² Shire of Bulleen RB 1888 Doncaster Riding No.397.

³¹³ Shire of Bulleen RB 1890 Doncaster Riding No.386 (NAV 90 pounds).

³¹⁴ Shire of Bulleen RB 1892 Doncaster Riding No.321 (NAV 112 pounds).

those of the local builders, Alexa Goyder and Myrtle Houston. An article in the district press called it "the Warrandyte Holocaust."³¹⁵

However, community groups were quick to rebuild their public buildings. A new South Warrandyte Hall, built by community effort, was opened on 16 December 1939³¹⁶ and was soon being used for public events. In July 1940, local Army volunteers were farewelled at a dance in the hall,³¹⁷ and there were regular community singing sessions. It was reported in August 1940 that the new hall had "had a successful run" with a record balance sheet.³¹⁸

The biggest event in the new hall was the 1941 South Warrandyte Show and Carnival organised by the local RSL branch. This event was described in great detail in the district press. Official guests included two MPs, the local Member, Hon. W. Everard, and the Hon. G.L. Chambers, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Ringwood. There were prizes for produce, cooking, jam making and needlework. However, the star attraction was a big arena program of motor cycle events presented by the Harley Club.³¹⁹

As with the other district halls at Templestowe and East Doncaster, the South Warrandyte Hall is owned now by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. It was purchased by the Council in 1977 but is run still by a local Committee of Management.³²⁰

Of local historical significance as a community meeting place recreated through community efforts after the 1939 bushfire.

The Naughton House and Factory **6-8 Naughton Ave (Cnr. Hutchinson Ave), Warrandyte.**

Merv. Naughton, a leading Victorian manufacturer of sporting rifles, was rated for an unfinished house on four acres of land in the Hutchinson Estate in the 1946-47 Warrandyte Riding records.³²¹

³¹⁵ *Croydon Mail and Mount Dandenong Advertiser*, Ringwood, 19 Jan. 1939.

³¹⁶ *The Mail*, Ringwood, 15 Aug. 1939.

³¹⁷ *The Mail*, Ringwood, 20 July 1940.

³¹⁸ *The Mail*, 15 Aug. 1940.

³¹⁹ *The Mail*, 13 March 1941.

³²⁰ Interviews with Rosemary Adam and Bill Woods (President of the Hall Committee), July 1994.

³²¹ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe General and Water RB 1946-47 No.33 (NAV 22 pounds).