

Westerfolds Manor
Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe.

The English Cottage style residence, Westerfolds Manor, was built for Lindsay Robert Turner, solicitor, and his wife, Gladys Estelle, between 1935 and 1936, according to district rate records.⁴²⁶ Turner's home was built near Fitzsimmons Lane on 255 acres of land along the Yarra River.⁴²⁷ This original acreage has never been subdivided.

The Turners bought the site in 1934-35 from the Estate of D. Smith.⁴²⁸ The Smith family ran a dairy farm on the land from the 1860s.⁴²⁹

The site of Westerfolds Manor is an historic one and goes back to the early settlement era in the days of the Unwin Special Survey of 1841. This Survey covered 5120 acres between the Koonung Creek and Templestowe.⁴³⁰ Two 19th century maps show the 255 acre allotment. An 1850 map shows JS Brodie as the owner at that time.⁴³¹ A later, 1874 map, confirms the transfer to J and D Smith.⁴³²

The Smiths, who built a house on the land and ran a dairy, called their estate Holyrood Park after Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.⁴³³ This name is recorded on a 1912 Army Survey map. The area is shown as grazing land with a track leading from the Smith house on the Yarra back to Porter Street and the Templestowe township.⁴³⁴

During the 1920s, Gilbert Smith, farmer, occupied the property owned by the David Smith Estate.⁴³⁵ Wallace Smith, dairyman, was the occupier in 1934-35 when the Turners purchased.⁴³⁶

⁴²⁶ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1935-36 Templestowe Riding Nos. 898, 899 (NAV 270 pounds).

⁴²⁷ *Plan of Bulleen*, Syd. B 13, Lindsay Clarke, Assist. Surveyor, 4 March 1850.

⁴²⁸ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1934-35 Templestowe Riding No. 925 (NAV 270 pounds).

⁴²⁹ *Westerfolds*, Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Mewsletter, March 1985.

⁴³⁰ Graham Keogh, *History of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p. 3.

⁴³¹ *Plan of Bulleen*, Syd B13, 4 March 1850.

⁴³² *Plan of Bulleen*, Parish of Bulleen, Plan 526B, 1874.

⁴³³ *Westerfolds*, March 1985.

⁴³⁴ *Heidelberg-Doncaster Army Manoeuvre Map*, MDef. 120, CPO Vic.

⁴³⁵ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1927-28 Templestowe Riding No. 851 (NAV 300 pounds).

⁴³⁶ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1934-35 Templestowe Riding No. 925.

The old Smith house on the river was demolished during the Turner ownership. However, the 1930s residence, Westerfolds Manor, and the property's original acreage have been retained throughout subsequent ownerships. The property was purchased in the 1960s by A V Jennings. The State Government became the owner in 1973 and the property was subsequently developed into the present Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park by MMBW (now Melbourne Parks and Waterways).⁴³⁷

Of *local historical significance* for its associations with an historic district property, once known as Holyrood Park, which dates from early settlement and has retained its original large acreage.

House

108 Whittens Lane, Doncaster.

This was the second Doncaster home of John Tully, orchardist and local Councillor, constructed in 1896.⁴³⁸ John was the son of the pioneer orchardist, Thomas Tully from Ireland, whose modest house stood near the north-east junction of Williamsons and Doncaster Roads.⁴³⁹

Rate book evidence suggests that John Tully's first home was on his 20 acres of land on the Koonung Creek south of Wilson's Road and west of Elgar Road, as shown on an early district map.⁴⁴⁰ This property may have been there from the 1870s as suggested by a map of first district fruitgrowers of that decade prepared by Irvine Green.⁴⁴¹

In 1889, John Tully, gardener, was rated as the owner and occupier of a house on this land with a substantial valuation⁴⁴² By 1890, this timber house of four rooms was occupied by John Tully still but was owned by the South Doncaster Estate Company⁴⁴³ During the early 1890s, Tully ran an orchard on the Lawford Estate on the west side of Williamsons Road near Doncaster Road, opposite his father's orchard property.⁴⁴⁴

⁴³⁷ *Westerfolds*, 1985.

⁴³⁸ Shire of Doncaster RB 1896-97 No.5.

⁴³⁹ Graham Keogh, *History of Doncaster and Templestowe*,

⁴⁴⁰ *Parish of Bulleen*, Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

⁴⁴¹ Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, pp.32-33.

⁴⁴² Shire of Bulleen RB 1889 Doncaster Riding No.367 (NAV 118 pounds).

⁴⁴³ Shire of Doncaster RB 1890 Doncaster Riding No.33.

⁴⁴⁴ Shire of Doncaster RB 1894 No.320; *Parish of Bulleen*, 1892.