

John Tully's Whittens Lane land was rated for the first time in 1895.⁴⁴⁵ A house was recorded there in 1896 when Tully was listed as a fruitgrower. He still occupied orchard land in the Lawford Estate and was rated for his earlier house in Wilson's Road.⁴⁴⁶

By the turn of the century, Tully was living in his Whittens Lane home but still owned the Wilson's Road house and, by this time, was owner of the Lawford Estate orchard.⁴⁴⁷ A 1912 Army Survey map showed extensive orchard areas in the vicinity of the Tully family properties in Whittens Lane, Williamsons and Doncaster Roads.⁴⁴⁸

Of local historical significance. as a surviving orchard cottage associated with John Tully, now within the centre of Doncaster. It provides evidence of early settlement and orchard patterns.

Yarra Lodge (former Hemsworth House), 18 Yarra St., Warrandyte.

This house has associations with mining areas on the edge of the Warrandyte township, where the house's first owner acquired land at the turn of the century. In 1905, Joseph Blair, miner from the Black Range, Lawlers, Western Australia, owned five acres of land at Ross Hill.⁴⁴⁹ This has been identified as the site of Yarra Lodge.

Ross's was one of the main alluvial gullies at the Andersons Creek, Warrandyte goldfields. Gold was discovered here and a number of reefs opened in the 1850s.⁴⁵⁰

The following year, 1906, Blair (reputedly retired from his gold mining activities in Western Australia) acquired a hut and two acres of land at Anderson's Creek previously owned by John Blair, miner.⁴⁵¹ It is not known if the two Blairs were related.

The house now known as Yarra Lodge dates from 1908. By September 1908 Mrs Florence Blair (Joseph's wife) was rated for a house on the five acres at Ross Hill owned in 1905 by her husband.⁴⁵² At this time, Joseph still owned the hut at Anderson's Creek and 75 acres of land along Anderson's Creek Road.⁴⁵³

⁴⁴⁵ Shire of Doncaster RB 1895-96 Doncaster Riding No.332(NAV 21 pounds).

⁴⁴⁶ Shire of Doncaster RB 1896-97 Doncaster Riding Nos.5,326-329.

⁴⁴⁷ Shire of Doncaster RB 1900-1901 Doncaster Riding No.324(NAV 45 pounds); 1901-1902 Nos.332-334.

⁴⁴⁸ *Sketch Map of Heidelberg-Doncaster Manoeuvre Area*, John Monash, 1912.

⁴⁴⁹ Shire of Templestowe RB 1905-1906 Warrandyte Riding No.208(NAV 8 pounds).

⁴⁵⁰ James Flett, *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*, 1979, pp.27,36.

⁴⁵¹ Shire of Templestowe RB 1906-1907 Warrandyte Riding No.19(NAV 5 pounds).

⁴⁵² Shire of Templestowe RB 1907-8 Warrandyte Riding No.26(NAV 30 pounds).

⁴⁵³ Shire of Templestowe RB 1907-8 Warrandyte Riding Nos.25,27.

By 1910-11, when Florence Blair was the owner still of the Ross' Hill house, it was identified as on the Yarra Lodge site, on Lot 3 of Section 8 in Yarra Street⁴⁵⁴ In that year, her husband acquired more land in the Warrandyte goldfields area, 19 acres in Harris Gully.⁴⁵⁵ This was an alluvial gully opened in 1854-56.⁴⁵⁶ Today, Yarra Lodge is located near Blair Street, which is not far from Harris Gully Road.

During the early 1920s when the Yarra Street house increased in value,⁴⁵⁷ Florence sold Yarra Lodge to Charles R. Hemsworth, a farmer.⁴⁵⁸ The Blairs, however, continued to own properties in Yarra Street and were responsible in the 1940s for the subdivision of the Yarra View Estate⁴⁵⁹ Their former home survived and is shown on a recent 1992 MMBW Property Sewerage Plan still on Lot 3 with its return verandah facing Yarra Street.⁴⁶⁰

Yarra Lodge is of *local historical significance*. for its associations with the Blair family, Western Australian miners attracted to the Anderson's Creek, Warrandyte goldfields area.

House

38 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

This shop and residence, which appears to date from circa 1940, was located on the 1935 subdivision of the Joseph Blair Estate in Yarra Street.⁴⁶¹ Prior to that date, Joseph Blair of Box Hill, was rated for Lots 1 to 6, vacant land in Yarra Street.⁴⁶²

⁴⁵⁴ Shire of Templestowe RB 1910-11 Warrandyte Riding No.24 (NAV 30 pounds). Still listed at Ross' Hill.

⁴⁵⁵ Shire of Templestowe RB 1910-11 Warrandyte Riding No.25(NAV 12 pounds).

⁴⁵⁶ James Flett, p.36.

⁴⁵⁷ Shire of Doncaster RB 1922-23 Templestowe Riding No.292 (NAV 50 pounds).

⁴⁵⁸ Shire of Doncaster RB 1923-24 Templestowe Riding No.401(House 6 acres Lots 2B,3,3A Section 8, Yarra Street).

⁴⁵⁹ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1941-42 Warrandyte Riding Nos.67,68,69.

⁴⁶⁰ MMBW Property Sewerage Plan No.818182.

⁴⁶¹ Lodge Plan 14119. Dated 27 March 1935.

⁴⁶² Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1935-36 Warrandyte Riding No.62(NAV 15 pounds).