

Myrtle Houston houses.

An interesting comparison might be made with houses designed by another female Warrandyte builder operating in the area in the post-1939 period. Titles Office records confirmed that Houston owned the sites of a number of buildings attributed to her.⁵⁵⁷ These houses stood on large allotments (34,35,36) stretching between Yarra and Brackenbury Streets, as shown on the Parish Plan. Houses on these sites attributed to Houston are 318 Yarra Street and 161 and 165 Brackenbury Street. Rate records confirmed that in 1947-48 there were houses on Allotments 34 and 36.⁵⁵⁸

A detailed architectural investigation of the Goyder and Houston houses in Yarra and Brackenbury Streets would allow the work of these female builders to be placed in context.

The house at 300 Yarra Street has *regional historical significance* as the home designed by Alexa Goyder, builder, where she lived from the late 1930s until her death in 1975. It is an example of her creative contribution to the innovative building, design and construction traditions in the Warrandyte district. *Of local historical significance* for its associations with the Warrandyte stonemason, Kevin Sloan.

**Nilja
Alexander Road
Warrandyte.**

Dr. James Booth, North Melbourne medical practitioner, and his wife, Angela E.J. Booth, were rated first in the 1921-22 Shire of Doncaster rate records for a cottage and shed on their 16 acres of land in Alexander Road, Warrandyte.⁵⁵⁹ This cottage reputedly came from Port Melbourne. However, no confirmation of this has been found.

The Booths at first used Nilja as their holiday home.⁵⁶⁰ By 1926, they were listed as owner and occupiers.⁵⁶¹ In that year, Angela successfully stood as a candidate for Warrandyte Riding in the newly-created Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe. She was the first woman councillor in the municipality and the third to be elected in Victoria. Angela was first president of the Women's Citizens Movement and was on the executive of the National Congress of Women.⁵⁶²

⁵⁵⁷ Peterson.

⁵⁵⁸ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1947-48 Warrandyte Riding Nos.2803-2805.

⁵⁵⁹ Shire of Doncaster RB 1921-22 Templestowe Ward No.757 (NAV 45 pounds).

⁵⁶⁰ Muriel Green, *Our First Woman Councillor-Mrs Angela Booth*, Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter Nov.1973.

⁵⁶¹ Shire of Doncaster RB 1926-27 Warrandyte Riding No.59 (NAV 55 pounds).

⁵⁶² Muriel Green.

Second owners of Nilja were the Rutledge family in 1948, recorded as Mrs Olive Josephine Rutledge and her daughters, Olive and Dorothy.⁵⁶³ Dorothy was a trained teacher who became interested in alternative methods of teaching children. In 1953, a house, Mulloka, was built on part of the Nilja site as a holiday home for children. It was run by Dorothy and her friend, Margaret Bennett, until it was destroyed by fire in 1965. The Nilja outbuildings were also destroyed at this time.⁵⁶⁴

After the death of her mother and sister, Dorothy became the owner of Nilja. Following her marriage in 1973 to Sir George Oswald Reid, barrister, solicitor and parliamentarian, the couple lived at Nilja. They remained there until November 1988.⁵⁶⁵ Sir George Reid had a distinguished political career and was Attorney-General in the Bolte State Government from 1955 to 1973.⁵⁶⁶

Of *local historical significance* for its associations with Angela Booth, first woman councillor in the municipality, and with Lady Dorothy Reid (nee Rutledge), an innovative district teacher.

The McAuley Cottage
2 Russell Road, Warrandyte.

This modest timber cottage, which dates from the 1870s or earlier, has associations with district miners. However, although A. Fairweather held the Miner's Right to the property (Crown Allotment 6A Section 18) in 1892 and became the registered owner in 1893⁵⁶⁷, he was not listed in early district rate records.

⁵⁶³ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe General and Water RB 1948-49 Warrandyte Riding No.2915.

⁵⁶⁴ Bruce Bence, *Sir George and Lady Reid*, Warrandyte Historical Society.

⁵⁶⁵ Bruce Bence.

⁵⁶⁶ Geoff. Brown, *Biographical Register of the Victorian Parliament, 1900-1984*, Parliament of Victoria, 1985, p.177.

⁵⁶⁷ Plan of Township Allotment Warrandyte Department of Lands and Survey 8 Oct. 1892; Parish Plan.