

ESCHOL PARK HOUSE

Lot 22 DP 545718 No. 14 Eschol Park Drive, Eschol Park

Built: c. 1820's



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

Sited on a spur of land overlooking Campbelltown (to the south). It is an interesting building group, associated with the early planting of an old avenue of trees, which still remain down the centre of Eschol Park Drive from Raby Road. There are some very interesting early out buildings including the barn to the west of the house and a large old wine cellar of stone and brick, built into the hillside to the south. The two storey house is substantial and has some quoining at the corners and around the front door. The name is a biblical one taken from "the promised land of Eschol", a place of vineyards. There was once a flourishing vineyard on the site, which won a gold medal at a Paris exhibition for its wine (Hardy and Gorman sale catalogue 1885). Once extended for 1000 acres.

Two one storey wings extend to the south of the main block and a single storey bow fronted addition that was built around 1890.

The house was built by Thomas Clarkson (c1820) and was occupied by his daughter and son-in-law, Thomas and Catherine Rowley. Other owners included Jemima Jenkins (1828-1842) when the property was known as "Eagle Vale". Robert Pitt Jenkins (1842-1858), William Fowler (1858-1876), Spencer Samuel Milgate (1876-1878), J.T. Gorus (1885), a Dutch photographer who lived there until the new century, the Braithwaites of Campbelltown, Stan French, Stephen Hewitt (c.1920) and G.F. Thompson. It was used during World War II as a retention camp for German Embassy people and there are rumours that gold bullion was buried on the grounds. (Proudfoot). Currently owned by Mr. And Mrs. Masina.

CONDITION AND USE:

Well maintained. Modern additions are the carport at the side of the house, the wrought iron balustrade on the upstairs verandah and the closing in of the verandah on the one storey wing. It has retained some early details inside (not seen) and a Victorian fountain in the garden. The old cellar is in good structural condition. G.F. Thompson retained the house with a curtilage of 1 1/4 acres when he sold the rear to Lend Lease. This area includes all the outbuildings and the old garden, but does not included the driveway, which is now part of Eschol Park Drive. The driveway used to end at the Bunya Pine beside the house. Mr. And Mrs. Masina currently operate Eschol Park House as a reception centre and restaurant.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- This building group has enormous landscape value as well as historic interest, lending a sense of identity to the area. The outbuildings are also important.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 2002

STATE: *Proudfoot: Index No. 22 Category 1 (Key Building)*

Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 5, No. 3

National Trust (NSW): Classified