



NEWSLETTER

PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065 - fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au
www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

APRIL 2022, ISSUE 2

FITZROY HISTORY SOCIETY EVENT 2PM SUNDAY, 22 MAY 2022

LIFE OF GOVERNOR LA TROBE AND EARLY FITZROY

Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Melbourne as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District in 1839 and left as Governor of Victoria in 1854.

In this time Melbourne flourished and Fitzroy grew into Melbourne's first suburb.

Tim Gatehouse, Peter Yewers and Mike Moore will speak on La Trobe the person and his relations with the Melbourne City Council of which Fitzroy became a ward in 1850.

La Trobe laid the foundation stone for our venue St Peters Eastern Hill in 1846.

He and his wife were regular worshippers at the Church and the present vicar, Bishop David Farrer, will offer a tour of the church focusing on the links with the couple.



Date:

Sunday, 22nd May 2022 at 2pm.
(Duration approx.1.5hrs)

Venue:

St Peters Eastern Hill Church
Corner Albert street and Gisborne
street East Melbourne
Enter from Albert Street down
driveway

There are no Covid restrictions
associated with this event.

Register:

Tickets - \$10

www.eventbrite.com.au

Search for 'La Trobe'

This is the 3rd time we have tried
to run this event. If you have
previously registered for this event
there is no need to re-register.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Fitzroy History Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations - and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

DOUBLE STANDARDS?

The original Standard Hotel was built and licensed by James Burrell in 1865. It was rebuilt in 1927 to the Art Deco design of architect Harry Norris.



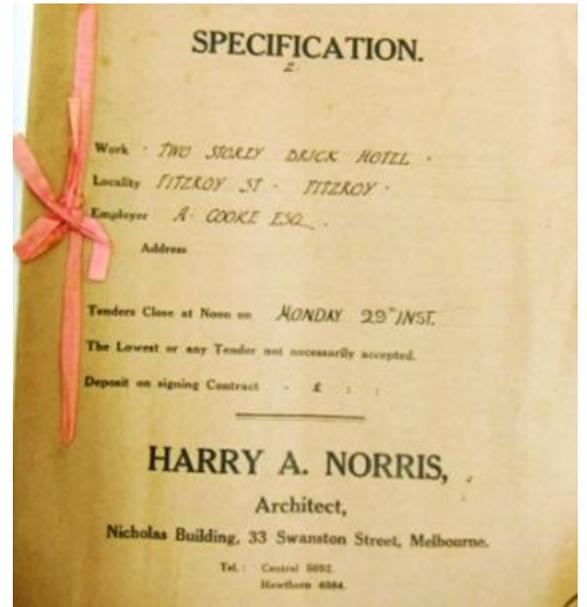
Standard Hotel, Fitzroy St

750m north along Fitzroy St at the corner of Rose St, the construction crane indicates the site of another Standard Hotel now being built.

The new 127 room hotel is due to be completed in 2023.



The new 'Standard' Hotel, Fitzroy St (cnr Rose St)



WRITTEN BY MIKE MOORE

RESEARCH PROJECT - PERSONALITIES OF FITZROY

The FHS project into the personalities of Fitzroy is underway, but there is still time to get involved if you are interested.

The project is seeking to find and document past personalities of Fitzroy from early times up to 1970's. This project is an extension to previous research projects that FHS has established for members, such as 'Brunswick Street, Lost and Found' and 'North Fitzroy - Half Drowned or Half Baked'.

Any member is invited to make suggestions and may choose to undertake the research and write up individuals' stories or alternatively forward the named personality to the research working group. The research group will meet monthly to discuss ideas and research.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

If you have any suggestions, ideas or wish to join the Research Group, please email: info@fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

YALINGUTH - AWARD WINNING LOCAL HISTORY EXPERIENCE IN FITZROY

Yalinguth means 'yesterday' in the Woi Wurrung language, and it is the name of an exciting and impactful new walking tour/app about the Aboriginal history of Fitzroy (Ngár-go). Stories range from 1940s-1990s and whilst it's a history of people living in Fitzroy at that time, it is more broadly the story of the impacts of colonisation, the rise of the Aboriginal Rights movement and the strength and resilience of the Aboriginal community.



This project recently won a Victorian Premier's Award and is a cumulation of eight years of work, 20 young people, 2 artists and many elders who are interviewed. It is free to download. For more information visit www.yalinguth.com.au and head down to Gertrude St!



FRANCIS CLARK: A MAN OF HIS TIME 1820-1896

Alison M Hart has recently published her research into Francis Clark, her great, great grandfather. An early settler in 1840, this research tells the tale of his life and the time he spent in and owning parts of Fitzroy in the 1840s, particularly around Gertrude Street.

To read this research - it is located on the:
FHS website under 'Publications'.

CITIZEN HISTORIAN PROJECT

80 WEBB STREET, FITZROY

This house is testament to Fitzroy's establishment as the earliest urban area to be settled outside the City of Melbourne.

It is also a significant symbol whose history amplifies a typical story of Melbourne and its citizens during the gold rush. Gold discovery at Ballarat in 1851 sparked Victoria's famous gold rush. Ballarat was considered the world's richest alluvial goldfield during its peak between 1852 and 1853. Thomas Bready and his family decided to swap their home for a tent on the gold fields of Ballarat.

Further, expert opinion believe that this house is the best building example similar to the birthplace in 3 August 1856 of Alfred Deakin, second prime minister of Australia.

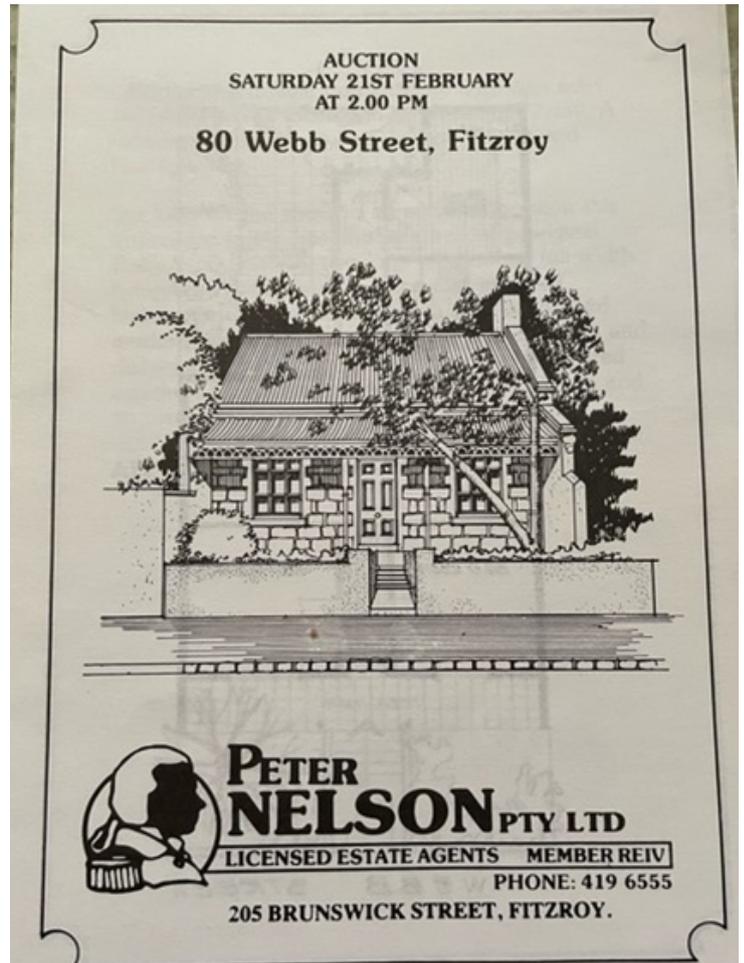
First Land Sales

The first Crown Land sales in Melbourne in 1837 with 20 acres of Sub section 51 being sold to Mr Thomas G. Gore.[1] This land, fronting Victoria Parade was subdivided early in 1850 by F. R. Gore and was developed entirely under the provisions of the new Melbourne Building Act[2]

In August 1851 Mr Gore auctioned his land referred to as "Gore Estate" being sub section 51. The description of the land at the time described it as a '*most healthy part of the City of Melbourne with commanding views of the bay, the Yarra and nearby countryside towards Plenty Hills*'.

[1] Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb, page 7

[2] Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb, page 15



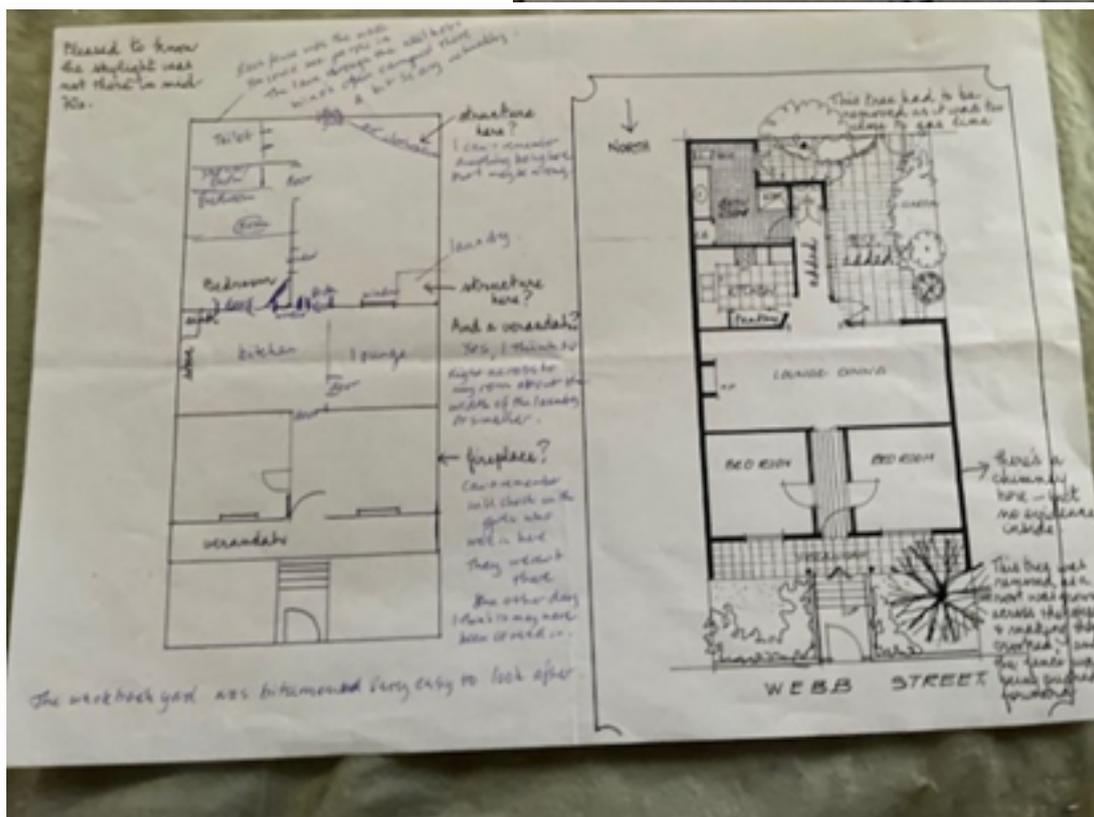
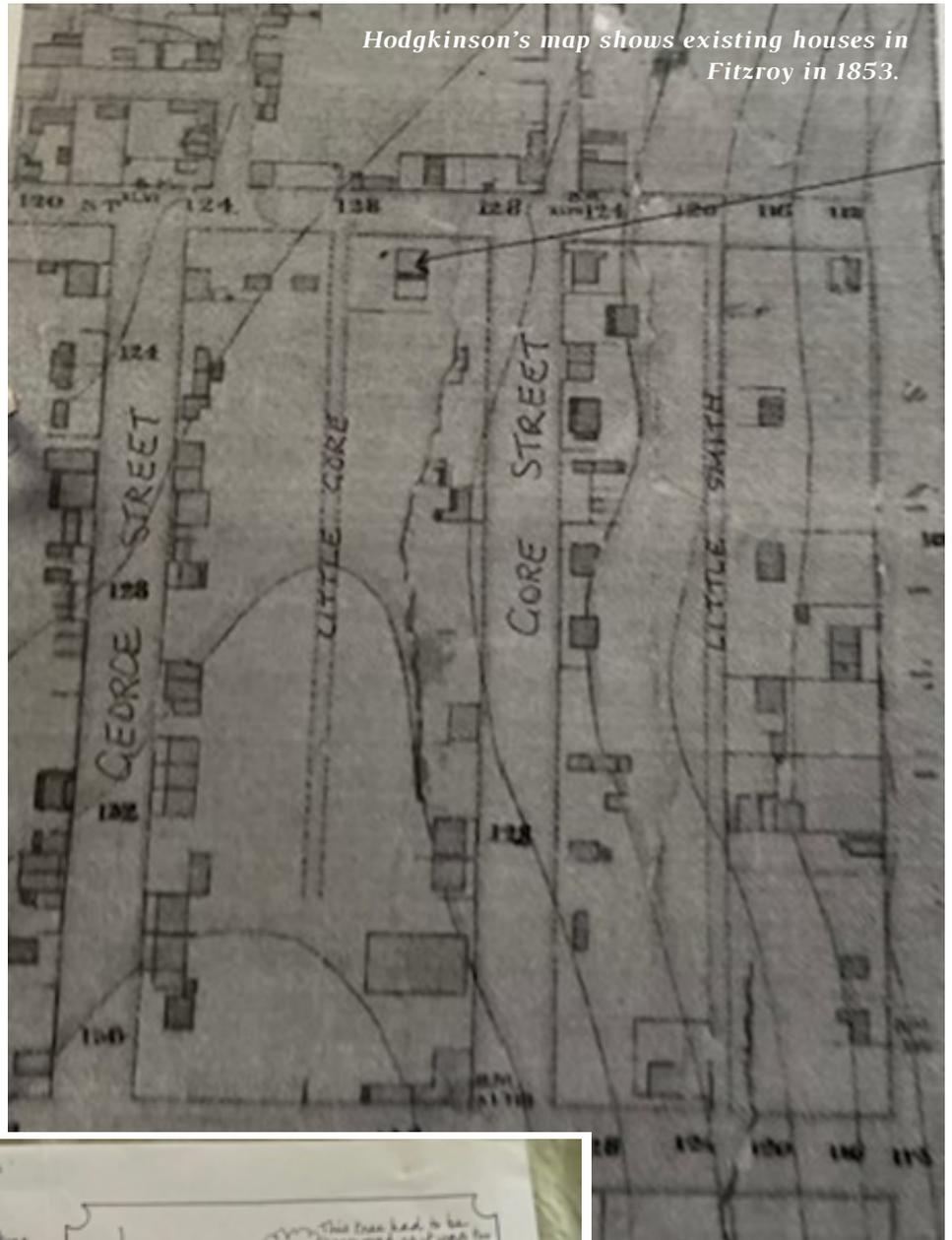
At this auction James Swords purchased Lot 43 and 44 in Webb St, for total of £105. Changes to house numbering systems in 1865 makes it tricky to fully identify house histories but from 1865 until 1887 the house was 50 Webb St. In 1880 it became No 80.

1852 - Thomas Bready

Thomas Bready, an Irish man and now owner, built a 4 roomed blue stone house here. He was an industrious builder in the area previously building the Collingwood Hotel for the proprietor James Swords on corner of Gore and Webb Street (Hotel now known as Union Club) plus the house at 90 Gore Street (Deakin's birth place) with the listed owner as Jeremiah Crowley.

The original roof was stringy bark shingles and covered with an iron roof. The veranda is believed not to be original. Typically for the period the house had plain and plastered ceilings and walls with good sized windows looking 'perfectly English'. These cottages did not have hallways, and front and back doors typically open directly into rooms. Floors at front of house being timber while at rear, brick or stone. Some bricks were used around a single fireplace.[1]

There was no articulated water or sewage until 1897 when the Melbourne Sewer works connected their homes to the system. In 1978, the ceiling collapsed. The owners turned this negative into a positive and installed a central skylight.



The house had been rendered with 'upgraded' window frames and was sold in April 1978 for \$25,000 and following the renovation sold again in September 1978 for \$42,400. In February 1987 the house was worth \$100,000.

[1] Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb, page 16

Gold

With the discovery of gold, the Bready family headed to Myers Flat, Bendigo to test their luck at gold mining. The house in Webb Street was rented out. Bridget and Thomas had a 3 roomed home built by friends and to increase income Thomas with his 13-year-old son, Thomas built a 'shanty' of 2 rooms. This was not considered to be a store as they had 3 rooms and most likely paid tax.



80 Webb Street, Fitzroy in the 1970's

Thomas's downfall was he traded as an unregistered sly grog alcohol outlet. Increasingly Thomas's health began to deteriorate. The young girls told their teacher that they sometimes had to stay up all night due to father's erratic behaviour. Others in the town talk of him requesting to use their weapons be it a rifle or razor. Young Thomas stayed with his father at the shanty, until a week prior to his death. His mother believed young Thomas should have a life for himself.



80 Webb Street, Fitzroy in 2016

Thomas Bready, gold miner and stone mason, aged 38, died 5 September 1855 at Myers Flat, Sandhurst of delirium tremors.

Thomas's wife inherited the property, but 20 years later, young Thomas contested the will in 1874, and it was not resolved until 1877. The property was then halved with one half sold to William James Parlett for £470 and the remainder sold to Joshua Greenwood.

The next owner was Samuel Davis, of 112 Gore Street, who owned the property until 1927, when it passed to his wife Amelia who died in 1928.

Throughout its life the house has mostly been rented.

WRITTEN BY MEG LEE