

## Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

### The Lonely Ruin

The Society was recently alerted to homesite ruins just off Tudor Park/Flynn Road by a member of the public. He emailed us two photos (one is shown below) and asked about the history of this house. This new request prompted our next history field trip - which we try to do every week, and we took ourselves off to Tudor Park Road. We found the ruins hidden behind dense bush and walked around the area, noting a track that joined up with Tudor Park Road. A demolished shed - maybe a former toilet/washhouse - ten metres from the burnt-out house, a concrete water tank pad, and a dam were nearby.

Whilst photographing a window we noted it was a 'beer bottle' window. Given that this was a relatively recent idea (1960/70s) we realised the house was modern.

The ruins are still historic, just not one of the early buildings in the Shire, so the next step was to find the Lot number and consult the Rate Books. After looking through the Rate Books we found that the two owners from the early 1920s through to the mid-1960s both lived in the eastern states. They were the Hurst family.

Next, we looked up Landgate aerial photos, and they revealed that in 1974 some of the land had been cleared, but there was no house. By 1977 the house had been built, as had the shed and water tank. The earliest and clearest Landgate image is from 1985. Everything

Beer bottles surrounding window frame



1985



Burnt out building in 2010

was fine in 2008. However, by 2010, the next aerial photograph shows the house was burnt out. Judging by the lack of any burnt trees surrounding the house in the aerial photo, it may have been a house fire, not a bush fire, although the shed itself appears to also have been destroyed, along with a vehicle.

We have no idea who lived there and what happened, but we have an outstanding query with the Shire about who paid the rates between 1974 and 2010. This may help lead us to an eventual answer.

If any reader knows more on this story, please enlighten us!

Current picture of ruin - 2024



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