

Marysville House

Arthur James Dickinson built Marysville House in late 1920s on the Marysville-Buxton Road. It is the only guest house building to have survived the 2009 bushfires.

Arthur was a piano maker and learnt that the varnishes and glues that he used were detrimental to his health, so he sought another life out of the city in Marysville. Arthur bought a timbered block on the Marysville-Buxton Road on the outskirts of the little town of Marysville. The block was cleared, the timber cut and seasoned, and this was used to build Marysville House. His appreciation of fine wood, from his piano making days, came to the fore in the wood panelling he used to line the two large living rooms.

With Arthur in Marysville from 1926 were his wife, Grace nee Sweetland and his brother in law Arnold Spooner who had married his sister, Eileen Marie nee Dickinson.

Arnold also had electrical skills and both he and Arthur found work with Eric Dowdle, who built and renovated guest houses to create the Mary Chain. They also built and cared for many of the waterwheels around Marysville, which was a vital job as they supplied electricity to the large guest houses and also parts of the town. Their wives - Grace and Eileen - ran the guesthouse until Arthur and Grace's marriage ended in divorce.

Arthur then married Elsie May Denton, who had been part of the family for most of her life and their first child, Peter was born in 1939. They would have five sons and one daughter by 1950.

Around the time of the Second World War the guest house consisted of cabins as well as the main house and sometime in 1950 a large second building was added to the back of the main house. In the mid-1950s Arthur's health began to deteriorate and around 1957-58 the family was forced to cease running the guesthouse.

Arthur died in 1970 and Elsie in 1994.

Today the house is the private home of Peter and Linda Dickinson.