



History Nugget for June 2016 : The News of the World Houses

The News of the World houses along Madeira Road and Commonside West, were possibly built between 1923 and 1926.

These dates are from two sources: the original planning application, and an auction on eBay.

1) Building application no. 350 was submitted by the News of the World for '28 cottages, Commonside East and Madeira Road' and it was approved by the Mitcham Urban District Council on 12th September, 1922.

2) A page from an unnamed architectural magazine being auctioned on eBay reveals that the architects for some of these houses was the firm of Culpin & Bowers. This magazine was dated 1926 and showed a photograph of one of the completed houses. The construction was described as:

"The external 9 inch brick walls are covered up to the cill levels of the first floors, above which the front has a projecting stucco band and a felt-floated cream-white plaster finish; the chimney stacks are faced with red sand-faced bricks; the window casements throughout are of wood; the halls and sculleries have red composition floors, and the roof is covered with variegated sand-faced plain tiles."

The approximate construction cost per house was £600 which, adjusted for inflation, is around £33,000 in 2016.

Sources:

- 1) Proceedings of the Mitcham Urban District Council Volume VIII 1922 - 23.
- 2) eBay listing : <http://ebay.eu/1tjD5TF>