



### **History Nugget for August 2019: Builder Initials on Datestones**

A datestone is a stone, as part of a wall of a building, that may show when it was built, and by whom. There are a few examples still visible in Mitcham. Some may still exist but have been rendered over. At least one exists from a previous building and is behind a bar.

Some of those still visible from the road are shown below.



#### **Maple Terrace, Church Path – “J.M.P.”**

John Marsh Pitt, whose father George owned the London House stores before Tom Francis.

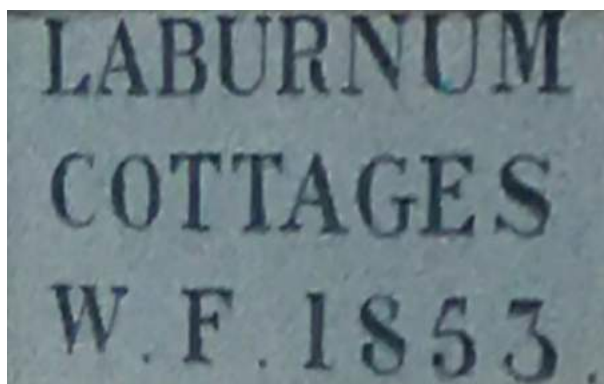
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**Langdale Avenue – “H.H.”**

There are two stones on adjacent houses at the Cold Blows end of Whitford Gardens. One has the year '1907' the other has 'HH' which may refer to Henry Harding, one of the brothers of a building firm that built, around the same time, the shops/flats of The Parade along London Road, numbers 225 to 263 today.



**Laburnum Cottages, Love Lane – “W.F.” 1853**

Unknown.



**Albert Terrace, Palestine Grove – “W.H.”**

The letters on this datestone are not very clear, but 'W.H.' can be made out. Likely to be W. Hyde, who had applied for planning permission in 1902 to build six cottages in Palestine Grove.

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