

House

88-90 George Street, Doncaster.

This house, which most probably replaced an earlier one¹⁰² once stood on a much larger allotment. The new house was built in 1897.,¹⁰³ District rate records confirm that by 1898 Rheinhold and his son, Henry, Dehnert, fruitgrowers, owned a house and 62 acres of land in Waldau Lane (also known as German Road, or Germantown Road, now George Street).¹⁰⁴

Rheinhold, who was born in 1837 in Silesia in Prussia, arrived in Melbourne in 1855. At first he worked in his brother, Robert's brickmaking factory at Abbotsford. Later, Rheinhold carted goods between Melbourne and the goldfields. Later still, he was a member of the German community which established the Waldau settlement at Doncaster. Rheinhold was famous for his table grapes, which he sold in the Victorian markets. He also became a successful pear grower and at one time was known as the "Pear King." During the 1880s Rheinhold extended his George Street orchard¹⁰⁵ An 1892 map showed Dehnert's George Street property extending down as far as the present Murphy Street and covering an estimated 90 acres..¹⁰⁶

District rate records confirm changes in the ownership of the George Street property and a reduction in its size as the orchard area was sold off. By 1910 (when Rheinhold was owner still) the property had been reduced to 20 acres¹⁰⁷ In the 1920s, the house stood on five acres and by the 1940s on one acre.¹⁰⁸ These records confirm a long association with the Dehnert family of fruitgrowers and orchardists. After the death in 1940 of Rheinhold (aged 102) and the earlier death of his wife, Christiana Johanna (nee Aumann),their children ,Henry and Annie, became owners of the George Street property..¹⁰⁹ It was described in the early 1940s as a house and sheds on one acre.¹¹⁰ Henry and Annie were the only family members not to marry. After Henry died in 1961 and Annie in 1967, the old house went to their sister, Augusta. She sold the house in 1969.¹¹¹ A 1976 MMBW Property Sewerage Plan showed the old house with its long verandah, a rear laundry wing, and a large outbuilding.¹¹²

¹⁰² Shire of Bulleen RB 1883 Doncaster Riding No.162 (NAV 47 pounds).

¹⁰³ Eric Uebergang, *Aumann Family History*,1993,p.367 (photograph of house p.366).

¹⁰⁴ Shire of Doncaster RB 1898-99 No.78 (NAV 127 pounds).

¹⁰⁵ Eric Uebergang,pp. 366-367.

¹⁰⁶ *Parish of Bulleen*.Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

¹⁰⁷ Shire of Doncaster RB 1910-1911 No.78.

¹⁰⁸ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1929-30 Doncaster Riding No.157; Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1941-42 Doncaster Riding No.159.

¹⁰⁹ Uebergang,p.370.

¹¹⁰ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1941-42 Doncaster Riding No.159.

¹¹¹ Uebergang,p.370.

¹¹² MMBW Property Sewerage Plan. No. 554886.