

Today, Heimat stands on Rieschiecks Reserve, the Council having purchased the property for a reserve and sporting ground but retaining the old home.²²⁸

Of *local historical significance* for its associations with John Finger, member of the Doncaster German community of pioneer orchardists.

House
8 Russell Road
Warrandyte.

There is some evidence that suggests that the oldest part of this cottage may date from the 1860s, or even earlier. Russell Road (where it is located) is at the northern end of Thomson's Gully, opened as part of the Anderson's Creek goldfield in January 1855²²⁹ This was the year after James Gray Russell, miner, the first owner of the cottage, arrived in Melbourne.²³⁰

Russell was listed as a resident of Anderson's Creek (the name of the goldfield and of the infant Warrandyte township) at least by 1863, when the death of his infant son at that location was reported²³¹ Later, in 1864, Russell was among 56 Anderson's Creek residents who petitioned for the reservation of a site on the west of Anderson's Creek for cricket and recreation purposes.²³²

No conclusive evidence has been found either in local government or mining department records to confirm that the Russell Road cottage was there by this time. However, district records confirm that James Russell was the owner of a house and garden, rated in the township area, in 1873. The cottage had a very small valuation suggesting a modest structure²³³

²²⁸ Uebergang, pp.200-201 (Photo of Heimat in the Reserve).

²²⁹ James Flett, *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, Warrandyte Goldfield*, compiled 1899, 1909 (shows Thomson's Gully).

²³⁰ Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter, Aug. 1975.

²³¹ Bruce Bence, *Anderson's Creek Warrandyte. 1866-1988*, p.13.

²³² Louis Cranfield, *The Golden History of Warrandyte*, 1982, pp.40-41.

²³³ Templestowe District Board RB 1873 No.365 (NAV 7 pounds 10 shillings).

During the late 1870s and in the 1880s its valuation increased.²³⁴ In 1880, Russell's house and garden was recorded as still on Crown land.²³⁵ However, after 1891, when he successfully applied for title, James Russell, miner, was recorded as the owner and occupier of a house and two acres in Thomson's Gully.²³⁶ This is the property known now as 8 Russell Road.

In 1922, the house was sold to the McPherson family but then returned to the original family ownership until 1940. Recently, extensions have been made to the front of the house.²³⁷ An expert physical examination of the house is needed to determine whether any of the 1860s or earlier fabric remains. If it does, this former miner's cottage is most probably of regional significance.

Of local historical significance as the home of the early miner, James Gray Russell.

Finger barn
Schramms Cottage Reserve
Victoria Street, Doncaster East.

This barn, now relocated, was once part of a large 85 acre property owned last century by the pioneer orchardist Heinrich (Henry) Finger. This property was shown on an early district map on the north side of German Lane (now George Street) bounded on its east by Bismark (now Victoria) Street, within the Waldau German settlement. at Doncaster²³⁸ Finger (1831-1884), who came from Silesia in Prussia, arrived in Melbourne with his family in February 1850..²³⁹ He was a member of the Waldau community, which pioneered the district fruitgrowing industry²⁴⁰

Henry worked on his father, Christian's farm until he was twenty-one. He later purchased land at Deepdene, where he built a two-roomed cottage. This was where he and his wife, Caroline (nee Aumann) began their married life, where their first seven children were born, and where Henry started a fruit tree nursery..²⁴¹

²³⁴ Shire of Bulleen RB 1877 Warrantdyte Riding No.339(NAV 10 pounds).

²³⁵ Shire of Bulleen RB 1880 Warrantdyte Riding No.348;1885 Warrantdyte Riding No.374 (NAV 12 pounds);1888 No.464(NAV 18 pounds).

²³⁶ Shire of Templestowe RB 1895 Warrantdyte Riding No.263.

²³⁷ Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter, Aug.1975.

²³⁸ *Parish of Bulleen*, Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

²³⁹ Eric Uebergang, *Aumann Family History*, pp.84-- 85.

²⁴⁰ Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, pp.8,15.

²⁴¹ Eric Uebergang, p.85.