

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 Warrantye Riding No.339(NAV 10 pounds).

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

²³⁶ Shire of Templestowe RB 1895 Warrantye 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.

From 1868, Henry Finger was rated for a farm at Waldau in Doncaster²⁴² Here in 1870, he built a large family home with bricks made from local clay.²⁴³ It had ten rooms with verandahs, two rooms in the attic and a large cellar, and was surrounded by implement sheds, fruit packing sheds, stables, and a large barn and smoke house. Only the barn has survived.²⁴⁴ The property also had an associated orchard.

The Doncaster district became an established orchard area during the 1880s. The Finger property was described in 1888(after Henry's death in 1884) as a house and 85 acres of land at Waldau with the considerable valuation of 337 pounds.²⁴⁵

German farmers also planted grapes at Doncaster. The slopes behind the Finger homestead in German Lane were reputedly covered with vines²⁴⁶ A 1912 Army map shows the extensive orchards in the vicinity of the Finger property²⁴⁷ A later, 1920s map also showed these orchards.²⁴⁸

After her husband's death in 1884, Caroline continued to live in the old house and work the orchard with her sons, Ernst Ferdinand and John. Later, after his marriage, Ferdinand lived in the large family home and Caroline moved to a smaller house elsewhere on the property. By the 1920s, the property was owned by the Rieschieck family. The demolished the old house in 1974 but retained the large barn, which was relocated on its present site. It now stands beside Schramms Cottage in the Schramms Cottage Reserve in Victoria Street.²⁴⁹ An expert physical examination of the fabric of this structure is recommended to confirm its date of construction.

Of local historical significance. as one of the largest and possibly the earliest of the remaining barns in the district and for its associations with Finger's orchards; relocation has reduced its significance.

²⁴² Templestowe District Board RB 1868 No.69 (NAV 16 pounds).

²⁴³ Templestowe District Board RB 1870 No.84.

²⁴⁴ Uebergang, p.85 (Photos pp.86,87).

²⁴⁵ Shire of Bulleen RB 1888 Doncaster Riding No.203.

²⁴⁶ Irvine Green, *The Orchards of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p.15.

²⁴⁷ *Sketch Map of Heidelberg-Doncaster Manoeuvre Area*, John Monash, 1912.

²⁴⁸ *Ringwood Military Survey Map* prep. Australian Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922.

²⁴⁹ Uebergang, pp.85-86; Schramms Cottage Grounds, site plan prepared by the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society.