

Gustav Adolph (1876-1964) was born in Doncaster, the sixth child of Ernst August Aumann, pioneer district fruitgrower, and Caroline Ernestine nee Hanke. Artie, as he was known, was educated at the Doncaster East School and, after leaving school, worked on Ferdinand Finger's orchard. Later, with three of his brothers, Artie bought land at Templestowe, cleared it, and established successful orchards. The brothers built five houses on their land before marrying, three brothers marrying three sisters.

Artie married Anna Maria Agnes Blobel on 18 August 1909, after building his Smiths Road house. The couple had ten children, five sons and five daughters. They are both buried in the Box Hill Cemetery.³⁵⁰

The Italianate timber farm house in Smiths Road has continued in the Aumann family ownership, and is now owned by Artie's son, Ernest. Born in 1916, Ernest August Aumann, was the fourth of Artie's children, worked on his father's Templestowe orchard until his father's death. Ernest, who had married Elsa Dora Petschel, a nurse, in 1956, continued to manage the property. Ernest and Elsa made their home on the Templestowe property, subdividing the land in 1978. At that time they built a new cream brick home but retained the old turn-of-the-century house. The couple had no children.³⁵¹

Of local *historical significance* as a remaining turn-of-the-century farmhouse associated with the Aumann orcharding family over a long period. It retains orchard outbuildings and older garden plantings.

Heide 1.
5 Templestowe Road, Bulleen.

This old farmhouse was the home of James and William Lang, Heidelberg farmers, when it was completed in 1891. It stood on land owned by Thomas John Dowd, gentleman, and was described in that year in district rate records as a house and garden on four acres of land on the Templestowe Road.³⁵² The Langs also farmed 140 acres of adjacent land along the Templestowe Road, which was also owned by Dowd.³⁵³ By 1893, the Langs had become the owners of the farmhouse, known today as Heide 1.³⁵⁴

³⁵⁰ Uebergang, pp.345-346 (Marriage photo and photo of house and the Aumann children).

³⁵¹ Uebergang, pp.349-350 (marriage photo, p.349).

³⁵² Shire of Bulleen RB 1891 Templestowe Riding No.41 (NAV 100 pounds).

³⁵³ Shire of Bulleen RB 1890 Templestowe Riding No.90 (NAV 580 pounds).

³⁵⁴ Shire of Bulleen RB 1893 Templestowe Riding No.91 (NAV 75 pounds).

The site of Heide 1 had a long and interesting history associated with early settlement in the area. The land was originally part of the Unwin Special Survey at Bulleen, later subdivided into the Carlton Estate farm allotments by Robert Campbell. In 1858, Sidney Ricardo purchased one of these allotments (Farm 26) of almost 172 acres from Campbell at a cost of 8000 pounds. This valuable riverfront land stretched back from the Templestowe Road to the Yarra.³⁵⁵ This property included the site of Heide 1. Ricardo, the owner, became an important district figure who, in 1857, was elected chairman of the first Templestowe District Road Board.³⁵⁶

In April 1869, Thomas John Dowd purchased 140 acres of this land (including the site of Heide 1)from Ricardo at a cost of 1000 pounds³⁵⁷ Later, in April 1881, he applied for title.³⁵⁸ By 1890, the Langs were farming the land and, as we have seen, by 1891, were occupying the farmhouse with its associated garden.³⁵⁹ By 1893, the Langs were owners of the property.³⁶⁰

The farmhouse continued in Lang family ownership and in 1912 was owned by James Lang, grazier.³⁶¹ In that year, an Army map showed the house and described the area around it as partly under cultivation and partly grazing land, with orcharding areas to the east.³⁶² A later, 1922 map, which also indicated the Heide 1 farmhouse, showed the land between Templestowe Road and the Yarra as a rural area still heavily timbered along the river bank.³⁶³

In 1934, according to district rate records, Lang's old farmhouse became the property of John Herford Reed, a Melbourne solicitor.³⁶⁴ From this date it played an important role in Australia's art history.

³⁵⁵ RGO Search 14675 (Dowd).

³⁵⁶ Graham Keogh, *History of Doncaster and Templestowe*, p.23.

³⁵⁷ RGO Search 14675.

³⁵⁸ RGO Search 14675.

³⁵⁹ Shire of Bulleen RB 1890 Templestowe Riding No.90; Shire of Bulleen RB 1891 No.41.

³⁶⁰ Shire of Bulleen RB 1893 Templestowe Riding No.91.

³⁶¹ Shire of Templestowe RB 1911-1912 Templestowe Riding No.107.

³⁶² *Sketch Map of Heidelberg-Doncaster Manoeuvre Area*, J.Monash, 1912.

³⁶³ *Ringwood*, Military Survey Map prep.Australian Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922.

³⁶⁴ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1933-34 Templestowe Riding No.411 (NAV 50 pounds).

In 1935 John and Sunday Reed (nee Bailieu) moved from South Yarra to “ an old weatherboard farmhouse situated on fifteen acres of hillside and river flats near Heidelberg.” This area consisted largely of orchards and dairy farms in the 1930s and 1940s. The Reed property, the writer explains, was “close to the area favoured by the early Heidelberg painters” and “was to become one of the liveliest centres for talk and art during the following decades.”³⁶⁵

A photograph of the old house in its garden setting during the Reed ownership still showed the tree-lined banks of the Yarra.³⁶⁶ By the 1940s, the Reed farmhouse was established as a focus for radical artists, writers, jazz musicians and intellectuals. The Reeds entertained, acted as patrons of the arts, and fostered the early careers of a number of notable Australian artists, such as Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Joy Hester, John Percival and Arthur Boyd. While in residence at Heide, Nolan painted his first famous Ned Kelly series.³⁶⁷

Another aspect of the life shared with the Reeds and their guests (which became a feature of the nearby Warrandyte community lifestyle) was the attempt to live a “natural” life in harmony with the environment. The Reeds and their visitors spent part of their time ploughing and milking on the property. Contemporary photos showed John Reed bringing cows up from the Yarra Flats for milking.³⁶⁸ A circa 1945 photo showed Sunday Reed milking at Heide.³⁶⁹ Sunday Reed’s gardens included a “heart” garden and also a large functional kitchen garden. A contemporary photo showed these gardens with the milking sheds and the tree-lined Yarra beyond.³⁷⁰

The Reeds lived in the old farmhouse from 1935 until the adjacent Heide2 was built in 1967.³⁷¹ Heide 1 then became the home of Barrett Reid, poet and former editor of the *Overland* literary journal. Barrett had been a visitor in the early days of the Reed ownership. During his occupancy, Reid has further developed the Heide 1 garden.

Of *national art historical significance* as the home of John and Sunday Reed, eminent art patrons, and cradle of the “Rebels and Precursors” period of post-war art in Australia.

³⁶⁵ Richard Haese, *Rebels and Precursors*, 1981, pp.28-29.

³⁶⁶ Haese, p.29.

³⁶⁷ Haese, pp.237-243 (photo “Christmas at Heide” p.242).

³⁶⁸ Haese, p.232.

³⁶⁹ Janine Burke, *Joy Hester*, 1983, p.21.

³⁷⁰ Haese, pp.238,239.

³⁷¹ *Architect*, July 1968, p.7.