

# FRIEDENSRUH



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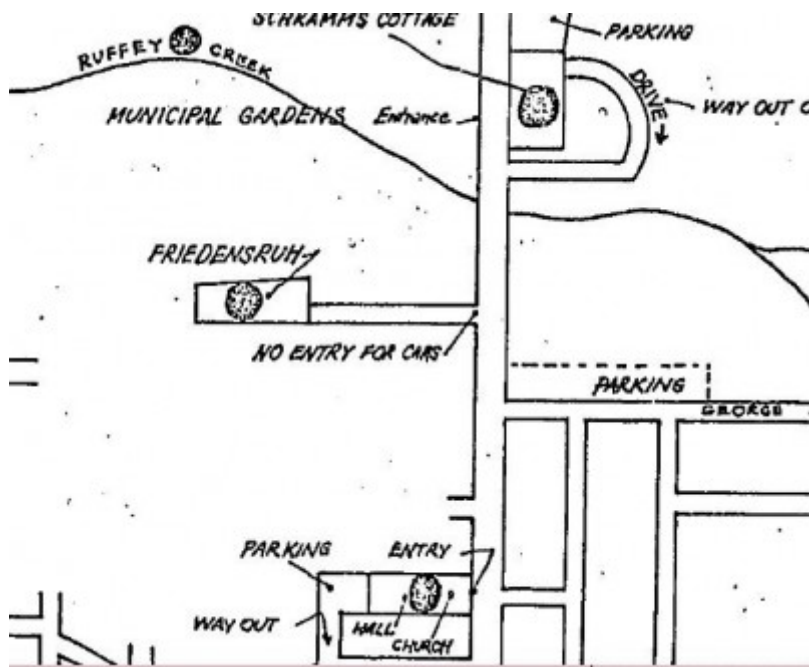
1 friedensruh waldau court  
doncaster side view house



friedensruh waldau court  
doncaster packing shed  
may1981



friedensruh waldau court  
doncaster stable may1981



h00376 locality plan

## Location

10 WALDAU COURT DONCASTER, MANNINGHAM CITY

## **Municipality**

MANNINGHAM CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0376

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO175

## **VHR Registration**

April 23, 1976

## **Amendment to Registration**

August 18, 1976

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - July 2, 2004

What is significant?

Friedensruh, dating from 1853, is probably the oldest surviving house in Doncaster. It was the home of the Thiele family, who played a prominent role in the settlement of the Doncaster district. Johann Gottlieb Thiele arrived in Victoria from Germany in 1849 with his wife and two young children. He set up as a tailor in Bourke Street, one of his customers being Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe. After some success on the goldfield he bought a property on Ruffeys Creek at Doncaster, which he called Friedensruh. Nine more children were born at Doncaster, and several of the family graves are in the cemetery of the nearby former Lutheran Church. The area became a centre for a German settlement, later called Waldau, remembered now in the name of the street leading to the house. The family initially produced wheat, dairy products and berries, which they sold at the Eastern Market in Melbourne. They later developed an orchard, which became one of the first commercial orchards in an area which by the late nineteenth century they had helped to establish as the most important fruit-growing area in the state. Gottlieb Thiele also played a prominent role in the history of the Lutheran Church in Victoria. The earliest house at Friedensruh was built in 1853. Soon after this, Gottlieb's brother Gotfried, a stonemason, built a stone walled fruit cellar and packing room nearby. As the family and the orchard business grew the house was extended and new outbuildings erected, including a barn or packing shed, stables and implement sheds. Many of these were built in the off-season by the family and their workmen, using local materials and simple construction methods.

The house at Friedensruh was built in several stages. The first section, built in 1853, was a two-room wattle and daub hut with an attic in the gable roof which was lit by an arched window in the gable, and with a detached

kitchen. In the mid 1850s three rooms, a drawing room, bedroom and kitchen, were added to the house. In 1898 a large new kitchen and a bathroom were added at the rear of the house, with a passage connecting them to the house, and a verandah was added around the 1850s addition. At about the same time the walls of the earliest section were stuccoed and the shingles covered with iron. Outbuildings include a weatherboard barn or packing shed, thought to have been built in the 1870s. It has a stone lined fruit cellar at one end, a storage loft in the roof, and once had an external platform for mixing sprays, a feature once common in the district. Additions were made to this building in 1928 and 1950s, for fruit washing and handling, as the orchard business grew. The original part of the stables was a weatherboard building with a hay loft in the gable, a brick floor, and a men's room at the end separated from the stable by mud walls. A skillion, buggy shed and cow shed were added later. In about 1915 a sleep-out with fly-wire walls was built, associated with the contemporary awareness of the value of fresh air. The gardens retain some of the early plantings, such as a Black Mulberry, *Morus niger*, a Himalayan Cedar, *Cedrus deodara* and a Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*. The remains of a very early dam, which once provided water for the orchard, are nearby.

How is it significant?

Friedensruh at Doncaster is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Friedensruh is of historical significance as an outstanding and rare surviving example of a pioneering orchard complex, which grew during the nineteenth and early twentieth century as the Victorian fruit industry, and the fruit export industry, grew. It is significant as a reminder of the Thiele family, who were among the first German settlers in the region, and who made an important contribution to the history of both the Lutheran Church and of the fruit-growing industry in Victoria. It is significant as a survivor of the 1850s German settlement of Waldau, one of several German settlements around Melbourne in the nineteenth century. Friedensruh, together with the nearby Schramm's Cottage and former Lutheran cemetery, form the last tangible evidence of the settlement of Waldau. The former Thiele orchards along Ruffeys Creek are now a park, which preserves some of the original rural environment of the property.

Friedensruh is architecturally significant as the oldest house in the Doncaster area, and as a rare and possibly unique surviving example of an early group of vernacular industrial buildings. Its outbuildings are significant as a very early orchard complex which grew over the years as the need arose. The outbuildings are also significant as a demonstration of early vernacular building techniques using readily available materials.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1853,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	338
Property Number	

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## History

Friedensruh, dating from 1853, is probably the oldest surviving house in Doncaster. It was the home of the Thiele family, who played a prominent role in the settlement of the Doncaster district. Johann Gottlieb Thiele arrived in Victoria from Germany in 1849 with his wife and two young children. He set up as a tailor in Bourke Street, one of his customers being Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe. After some success on the goldfield he bought a property on Ruffeys Creek at Doncaster, which he called Friedensruh. Nine more children were born at Doncaster, and several of the family graves are in the cemetery of the nearby former Lutheran Church. The area became a centre for a German settlement, later called Waldau, remembered now in the name of the street leading to the house. The family initially produced wheat, dairy products and berries, which they sold at the Eastern Market in Melbourne. They later developed an orchard, which became one of the first commercial orchards in an area which by the late nineteenth century they had helped to establish as the most important fruit-growing area in the state. Gottlieb Thiele also played a prominent role in the history of the Lutheran Church in Victoria. The earliest house at Friedensruh was built in 1853. Soon after this, Gottlieb's brother Gotfried, a stonemason, built a stone walled fruit cellar and packing room nearby. As the family and the orchard business grew the house was extended and new outbuildings erected, including a barn or packing shed, stables and implement sheds. Many of these were built in the off-season by the family and their workmen, using local materials and simple construction

methods.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2003. Sources were as follows:**

Documents in Heritage Victoria file:

Submission to HBPC from Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society, 1981.

'Thiele Family History', by W A Thiele.

'Research into Friedensruh', by Carlotta Kellaway for National Trust, 1981.

Submission on behalf of Collyer family to HBPC on Significance of Outbuildings at Friedensruh'.

HBPC Report to the Classification Sub-Committee, 1975.

## **Extent of Registration**

No.143A. Friedensruh, Waldau Court, Doncaster.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 44 - April 23, 1976 p.1202]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*