
KOCH FAMILY GRAVES SITE

Location

210 EPPING ROAD WOLLERT, WHITTLESEA CITY

Municipality

WHITTLESEA CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0525

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 11, 2022

What is significant?

Oral and historical sources note the presence of three graves likely to be located on the east side of Epping Road, north of Harvest Home Road, about 5 metres in from a gateway off a stony rise. The graves are those of the Koch family children.

Wilhem Koch purchased the land in the 1850s and established a homestead nearby. In 1853 he and his wife Pauline founded Melbourne's Trinity German Lutheran Church. The Koch family are noted to have five children in 1874; three were recorded to be buried on the farm. Wilhelm Jr. died 1856 (3 months) died of croup, Elizabeth died 1861 (aged four years) and Mary died 1861 (aged 18 months) both of septic tonsillitis. It is unknown why the children weren't buried in the Epping Cemetery, however the burials are recorded in newspapers as being located at the farm. Reportedly, the graves were visible from the road until c.1900, described by Rob Wucjasch as being located "in the front garden of a white house built along the lines of Elvis Presley's Gracelands mansion."

The Koch family graves are of historical significance as they demonstrate early Germanic settlement and burial practices in a Melbourne context. The graves have the archaeological potential to provide information about German Lutheran and early childhood burial practices. The graves are of social significance to the descendants of the Koch family.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Hermes Number 208954

Property Number

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/>