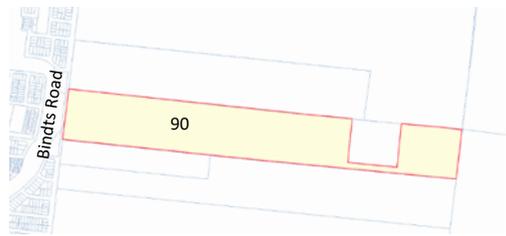


## Statement of Significance: Ewert's Farm

<b>Address:</b> 90 Bindts Road, Wollert	<b>PS ref no:</b> HO204
<b>Heritage Place:</b> Ewert's Farm	<b>PS map ref no:</b> 17
	

### What is significant?

The farm complex at 90 Bindts Road, Wollert was established by Carl and Maria Ewert and their family from c.1860 as a dairy farm. They constructed the dairy (c.1860s), basalt homestead (c.1885) and underground tank and the dry stone walls and enclosures. Like many other early settlers in this area the Ewerts were of German descent and had come to Wollert via Westgarthtown. Maria's sister Magdalena married Christian Bindt and they established the farm at 100 Bindts Road immediately to the north. The Ewert family sold the property in 1911 and later owners made further improvements including a new dairy in c.1930.

#### As shown on Figure 1 contributory features of primary significance are:

- The basalt house to the extent of the c.1885 fabric including the brick chimney, and underground tank to the north. The c.1980s red brick additions to the house are not significant,
- Stone milking shed with yard and enclosing basalt rubble yard wall to the north.
- Dry stone wall running along the creek valley to the north,
- Dry stone walls along the north, west and south property boundaries,
- Rough stone paved track from the south of the milking shed to the Darebin Creek, and
- The traditional setting of flat grasslands with stony rises beside the Darebin Creek valley and remnant River Red Gums that links the three historic farms along the east side of Bindts Road.

#### As shown on Figure 1 contributory features of secondary significance are:

- Corrugated iron clad Interwar dairy adjoining milking shed.

## How is it significant?

---

Ewert's Farm is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Whittlesea.

## Why is it significant?

---

Ewert's Farm is associated with the early development of the Wollert district for small farms after the land sales of the 1850s and demonstrates its role as dairying district supplying Melbourne in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is closely associated with German immigration that represents a key phase in the settlement of the Epping and Wollert localities within the City of Whittlesea. The Ewerts were linked historically with the adjoining German farms of the Timm and Bindt families and the nearby Westgarthtown settlement, as the origin point for this group of German farmers who later moved to Wollert. Ewert's Farm was part of this small German farm group, sharing built character and the landscape, and is historically significant for the capacity to demonstrate the lifestyle and domestic practices of early German settlers in the Whittlesea district. (Criteria A, H)

Ewert's Farm is a representative example of a small farm complex comprising a basalt homestead with associated outbuildings, stone walled enclosures, stone paved yards and lanes and dry stone walls. It demonstrates a range of vernacular building techniques including the evolution of the basalt walling from the dressed façade of the 1880s house to the more typical rubble walling of the earlier milking shed, which retains an early shingled roof, some indicative timber bails, paving, and a stone walled yard enclosure to the north, formerly part of an early outbuilding. The later corrugated iron clad dairy expresses the standards required for dairying under the new *Milk Board Act 1932* of the inter-war period. (Criterion D)

The dry stone walling, which is so distinctive of the farms at Wollert, is representative of the traditional farming practices brought by the early German settlers, which made good use of the natural resources provided by the extensive stony rises that characterise the district. The dry stone walls at Ewert's Farm are part of a complex network of dry stone walls in Wollert that reflects the more intensive pattern of farming, characterised by smaller enclosures. Of note is the alignment of the two dry stone walls that connect Ewert's Farm and the two farms to the north along the edge of the Darebin Creek valley, which underscores the strong historic and visual relationship between each farm group. (Criterion D)

The significance of Ewert's Farm is enhanced by it forming part of a group of related early farm complexes established by German settlers along the east side of Bindts Road, which provide a good illustration of nineteenth century small farming in the Melbourne stony rises district. These are now rare examples of early farms in Wollert that retain their traditional landscape setting. (Criteria B, D)

Ewert's Farm is of aesthetic significance as a stone homestead complex set within a traditional landscape setting including River Red Gums that are remnants of the original native grasslands and a distinctive characteristic of this area. Also of note are the dry stone walls, which are both a result of, and response to the 'stony rises' that distinguish the natural landscape in this area. Ewert's Farm makes an important contribution to the broader landscape along the east side of Bindts Road that

## WHITTLESEA PLANNING SCHEME

includes the historically related farm complexes to the north at 100 and 130 Bindts Road. The 1885 house also has aesthetic value for the more refined coursed stone construction demonstrated in its facade than is typical in the City of Whittlesea. (Criterion E)

Ewert's Farm has social value for the present-day Friends of Westgarthtown as part of the cluster of small farms at Wollert that provide tangible evidence of early German settlement, which is an important theme in the historic development of Whittlesea. (Criterion G)

### Primary source

*Assessment of Heritage Significance: 40 – 152 Bindts Road Wollert, Graeme Butler, 2019*

### Figures

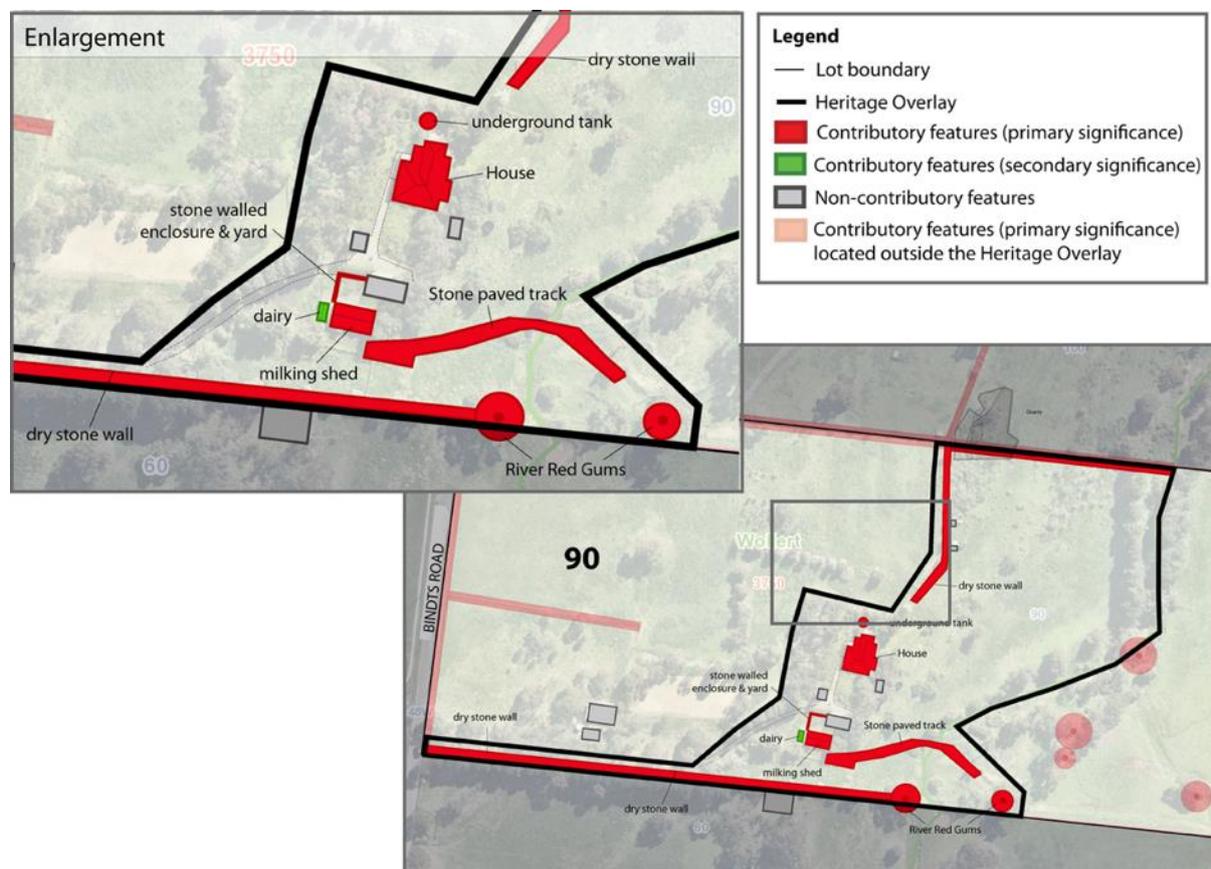


Figure 1. Contributory features of primary and secondary significance, and Non-contributory features and Heritage Overlay boundary.

## WHITTLESEA PLANNING SCHEME



Figure 2. Ewert house c.1895 with Maria Elisabeth Ewert (Carl and Maria's daughter) on verandah (Wuchatsch 1985, cites Mr R. Schultz).



Figure 3. House from south west, showing Non-contributory 1980s red brick additions at rear

WHITTLESEA PLANNING SCHEME



Figure 4. Milking shed, yard (former building) enclosure wall and Interwar dairy from west 2019



Figure 5. Milking shed, south wall looking east 2019

WHITTLESEA PLANNING SCHEME



Figure 6. South end of stone fence line that extends north as far as Timm's cottage 2019



Figure 7. Rubble stone paved track leading from milking shed to Darebin Creek 2019

WHITTLESEA PLANNING SCHEME



Figure 8. Stone south boundary fence near gateway 2019



Figure 9. Earth dam and red gums on the Darebin Creek