

PLACE	MINER'S COTTAGE (former)						
Address	73 Broome Crescent WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN013	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	12 (Section 49)
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Hovell	Parish	Wonthaggi	County	Mornington



Image Date	17 July 2009	Extent of listing	Whole allotment				
Designer/architect	Unknown	Architectural style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918)				
Builder/maker		Commenced	1911	Completed	1911		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	13.2 Building Towns (Larger Centres)				
Her Item Group	Residential buildings (private)	Assessed by	S Reeves	Date	28/08/09		
Her Item Category	House	Reviewed by	-	Date	-		
Usage (2009)	Residence	Condition	Good	Intactness	Excellent		
Significance	Local	Recommendation	Include in VHR <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in RNE <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in HO <input type="checkbox"/>	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 73 Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, is a modest single-storey symmetrical double-fronted Edwardian gable-roofed cottage with a simple verandah. It was erected during 1911 for miner E E Featherstone, whose family remained living there until the late 1930s.

How is it Significant?

The house is of historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Bass Coast.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the house is significant for associations with an early and important phase of private residential settlement in the Township of Wonthaggi. Erected during 1911, the present house was one of many similar dwellings that were erected privately by local miners at that time, following the laying out of the township and the construction of the Government Cottages during 1910 (*AHC Criterion A.4*). With its modest proportions, simple pitched roofs and verandah, and minimal decorative embellishment, this house demonstrates the humble aspirations of the working class during a key phase in the town's development (*AHC Criterion D.2*).

Aesthetically, the house is significant as a good and notably intact example of its type. Unlike many contemporaneous timber miner's cottages that survive in Wonthaggi, it still retains its original sash windows, verandah and external cladding to walls and roof. The use of two discrete but parallel gable roofs, creating a M-shaped profile to the side elevations, is a notably rare feature amongst Edwardian houses Wonthaggi (*AHC Criterion B.2*). This intact and especially small-scaled miner's cottage remains as a distinctive element in the streetscape (*AHC Criterion E.1*).

Physical Description

The house at 73 Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, is a basic single-storey double-fronted Edwardian timber cottage with a pair of longitudinal gabled roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel, creating the distinctive and unusual M-shaped roof profile to the side elevations. The symmetrical street frontage has a central front door, flanked by rectangular windows with timber-framed double-hung sashes and moulded architraves. There is also a simple full-width verandah, with a shallow skillion roof of corrugated galvanised steel supported on plain timber posts with shaped brackets.

A flat-roofed carport has been attached to the left side of the house.

Historical Notes

This house stands on part of Section 49 of the Township of Wonthaggi, an crescent-shaped block of 31 residential allotments bounded by Broome Crescent, Merrin Crescent, Matthew Street and the adjacent Section 48. The dwelling, occupying Lot 12 with frontage to Broome Crescent, is recorded in the first Borough of Wonthaggi rate book, compiled in June 1911. The property, occupied by miner Edward Emmerson Featherstone, was rated with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £10, which is indicative of a small two-roomed timber dwelling. When the next rate book was compiled only four months later, the NAV of Featherstone's house in Broome Crescent had almost doubled to £18, which perhaps reflects the completion of a further two rooms to the rear. In any case, Featherstone remained listed as the owner and occupant of this house until at least 1932, by which time the NAV had increased only nominally to £20. The rate book for 1937-38 identified the occupant as Mrs Edith Featherstone, presumably his wife or widow, with a pencilled amendment noting that she had since been replaced by one Frank Scott. Rate books reveal that the house was still in the possession of "The Estate of Edith Featherstone" as late as 1962.

Comparisons

Broadly, this house is a representative example of the type of private residential development that took place in the first few years of Wonthaggi's settlement, when employees of the State Coal Mine began to build modest timber dwellings for themselves. This contrasted with (and post-dated) the appearance of the so-called Government Cottages, which were built by the Lands Department during 1910 and subsequently rented to local miners. The house at 73 Broome Crescent is typical of the modest double-fronted Victorian-style cottages that miners built for themselves. Retaining its original windows, verandahs and weatherboard cladding, this example is considerably more intact than many of its counterparts, both in Broome Crescent (eg Nos 41, 51, 59, 66, 69, 101) and elsewhere (eg 33 Hunter Street, 12 and 22 Matthew Street, and 8 and 93 Merrin Crescent). Of these, the examples at 22 Matthew Street, originally built only one room deep, is especially comparable in its small scale.

In terms of physical integrity, the present house is otherwise most comparable to those cottages that survive, in substantially intact states, at 68, 70 and 121 Broome Crescent, 103 Merrin Crescent, and at 2 and 23 Caledonian Crescent. Amongst these examples, the present house stands out for its highly unusual roof form (with paired gables creating a distinctive M-shaped profile to the side) and for its particularly small scale, as mentioned above.

Recommended Management

Encourage the retention of the return verandah as a semi-open space, with no solid or glazed infill to be constructed.

References

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>
Borough of Wonthaggi	Rate Books (held by Public Record Office)	Various