

PLACE	GOVERNMENT COTTAGE No 76 (former)						
Address	16 Dunn Street WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN023	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	9 (Section 18)
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Hovell	Parish	Wonthaggi	County	Mornington



Image Date	17 July 2009	Extent of listing	Whole allotment (ie excluding subdivided No 16A at rear)				
Designer/architect	Public Works Dept	Architectural style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918) Bungalow				
Builder/maker	G S Matthews	Commenced	1910	Completed	1910		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	7.2.1 State Coal Mine				
Her Item Group	Residential buildings (private)	Assessed by	S Reeves	Date	21/08/09		
Her Item Category	Cottage	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	

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 16 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey double-fronted weatherboard cottage with a hipped roof and an unusual integrated verandah. It is one of the one hundred so-called Government Cottages that were erected in the township by the PWD during 1910 as accommodation for State Coal Mine employees. This house, an example of the Type B cottage, was occupied by Thomas McCallum, a miner, until 1912.

How is it Significant?

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

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the house is significant for associations with the earliest phase of permanent residential settlement in Wonthaggi, being one of 100 so-called Government Cottages that were erected during 1910 for State Coal Mine employees who, up to that point, had been living in a makeshift tent city near the mines (*AH Criterion A.4*). Pre-dating the initial boom of private residential development in the township, these are amongst the oldest surviving buildings in Wonthaggi (*AHC Criterion B.2*).

Architecturally, the house is significant as a substantially intact example of one of the standardised house designs produced by the Public Works Department for the Government Cottages at Wonthaggi (*AHC Criterion F.1*). Although one hundred such cottages were originally built in the township, most of these have since been demolished or considerably altered. The present building, representing the so-called Type B cottage, is a rare survivor of that type, being one of only five examples that still remain in a substantially intact state (*AHC Criterion B.2*).

Physical Description

The house at 16 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is an example of the standard Government Cottage design referred to as Type B. It is a single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard villa with a hipped roof of corrugated galvanised steel. The original chimney has been removed. The asymmetrical street frontage comprises a projecting hip-roofed bay to the left side, and a verandah to the right. The steeply sloped verandah roof, which extends continuously from the main roof hip, is supported in timber posts with curved brackets. The street facade has two tall rectangular windows, with timber-framed double-hung sashes (and glazing bars to the upper sashes) and moulded architraves. The window to the projecting bay has a window hood in the form of corrugated steel skillion rooflet on timber brackets.

A flat-roofed carport has been added to the left side of the house. The timber picket fence, although not original, is sympathetic to the era of the dwelling.

Historical Notes

When the State Coal Mine opened in November 1909, workers were housed in a sprawling tent settlement, known as the Bachelor's Camp, until permanent dwellings could be erected. Three months passed before the Public Works Department called tenders, on 4 February 1910, for "the construction of fifty weatherboard cottages at the Government Township of Wonthaggi". Three different cottage designs, with four, five or six rooms, had been prepared, and it was initially proposed to erect eighteen of Type A and sixteen each of Types B and C. The contract was awarded to builder George Sydney Matthews (1861-1921), who had tendered the sum of £9,315. The demand for cottages was intense, with hundreds of miners making written application during the early months of 1910. In April, as construction continued, the government authorised the erection of a further fifty cottages. It had originally been requested by the Minister that the Government Cottages "be kept together as much as possible, and not mixed up with the miners blocks". To this effect, they were restricted to sites on Sections 9, 10B, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 of the township, creating a rectangular precinct bounded nominally by Broome Crescent and Billson, Dickson and King streets, plus a few smaller pockets further west. By early May, Matthews reported that the first nine cottages had been completed, with nine more to become available in each successive week. By mid-October, all one hundred cottages had been completed.

The house at 16 Dunn Street, which is an example of the five-roomed Type B Cottage, occupies Lot 9 of Section 18. According to a typescript list of tenants in the State Coal Mine archives, it was designated at Government Cottage No 76 and was initially occupied by P McCallum. The first Borough of Wonthaggi rate book, dated June 1911, confirms his identity as Thomas MacCallum, miner. At that time, the property was rated as "Govt" [ie Government Cottage] with a Net Annual Value of £20. MacCallum evidently lived there for only a very short period, as the 1912-13 rate book (dated October 1912) indicates that the property had become occupied by another miner, Thomas Wills. By 1917, Wills had been succeeded as tenant by William B Moysey, also a miner, who remained living there into the early 1920s. Later residents included William Hales, police constable (by 1927) and William Milner, miner (by 1932).

Comparisons

It is not yet been established exactly how many of the original 100 Government Cottages were of Type B design. It might be reasonably concluded that they comprised about one-third of the total, as a surviving memo in the SCM archives at least confirms that the first fifty cottages included sixteen of Type B. But even if more than 30 Type B dwellings were built in total, a windscreen survey of the former Government Cottage area reveals that only about half of those still remain in a recognisable state today. Most of these have been altered in various ways, including surviving examples in Broome Crescent (Nos 26, 28), Dunn Street (11, 13, 14, 18), Hagelthorn Street (11, 27) and Court Street (6). Only five Type B cottages currently remain in what could be described as a substantially intact, located at 40 and 42 Broome Crescent, 16 Dunn Street, and 12 and 15 Hunter Street.

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
State Coal Mine	List of Government Cottage tenants (File 43, VPRS 10028/P0, PRO)	1910