

<b>PLACE</b>	GOVERNMENT COTTAGE No 69 (former)						
<b>Address</b>	30 Dunn Street WONTHAGGI						
<b>Study No</b>	WN025	<b>HO No</b>	-	<b>HPD No</b>	-	<b>Allotment No</b>	16 (Section 18)
<b>LGA</b>	Bass Coast	<b>Ward</b>	Hovell	<b>Parish</b>	Wonthaggi	<b>County</b>	Mornington



<b>Image Date</b>	17 July 2009	<b>Extent of listing</b>	Whole allotment			
<b>Designer/architect</b>	Public Works Dept	<b>Architectural style</b>	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918) Bungalow			
<b>Builder/maker</b>	G S Matthews	<b>Commenced</b>	1910	<b>Completed</b>	1910	
<b>Her Act Category</b>	Heritage place	<b>Historic Theme/s</b>	7.2.1 State Coal Mine			
<b>Her Item Group</b>	Residential buildings (private)	<b>Assessed by</b>	S Reeves	<b>Date</b>	21/08/09	
<b>Her Item Category</b>	Cottage	<b>Reviewed by</b>	-	<b>Date</b>	-	
<b>Usage (2009)</b>	Residence	<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Intactness</b>	Excellent	
<b>Significance</b>	Local	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in VHR <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in RNE <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in HO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

The house at 30 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey double-fronted weatherboard cottage with a hipped roof and an asymmetrical facade. 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 C cottage, was occupied by Alfred Beighton Pitt, surveyor, until the late 1920s.

#### 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 C cottage, is a particularly rare survivor of its type (*AHC Criterion B.2*). Although somewhat altered, it is nevertheless unique as the most intact remaining example of a Type C cottage in the area.

### Physical Description

The house at 30 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is an example of the standard Government Cottage design referred to as Type C. It is a single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard cottage with a hipped roof of corrugated galvanised steel. The original chimney has evidently been removed. Its asymmetrical street frontage has a projecting gable-roofed bay to the right side, with notched weatherboards and a timber trellis to the gable end and a window with timber-framed double-hung sashes. The original verandah has been replaced by a modern counterpart with a flat roof, supported on mild steel trellises.

### Historical Notes

When the State Coal Mine opened in November 1909, workers were housed in a tent settlement, 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 30 Dunn Street, which is an example of the five-roomed Type C Cottage, occupies Lot 16 of Section 18. According to a typescript list of tenants in the State Coal Mine archives, it was designated as Government Cottage No 69 and was initially occupied by A B Pitt. According to the first Borough of Wonthaggi rate book, dated June 1911, this house was occupied at that time by George Thomas, miner. This may have been an error, as the entry has subsequently been amended, with Thomas's name crossed out and replaced by that of Alfred Beighton Pitt, surveyor. The property was rated as "Govt" [ie Government Cottage] with a Net Annual Value of £22. A scribbled amendment to the 1915-16 rate book indicates that Pitt purchased his cottage from the Lands Department that year. Subsequent editions reveal that he remained in residence until the late 1920s. By 1932, the house was owned and occupied by Mrs Alice Kenworthy.

### Comparisons

It is not yet been established exactly how many of the original 100 Government Cottages were of Type C 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 C. But even if more than 30 Type C dwellings were built, a windscreen survey of the former Government Cottage area reveals that less than a dozen remain in a readily recognisable state. Perhaps because they were large than the Type A and Type B dwellings, the Type C cottages appear to have had a higher survival rate. However, the survivors have all been altered to varying degrees – in some cases, quite substantially. This is evident in those that remain in King Street (No 5), Hagelthorn Street (10, 20, 37), Drysdale Street (36), Dunn Street (21, 22, 23, 25) and Court Street (4, 8). The present house at 30 Dunn Street, even though it has been somewhat altered by the erection of a new verandah, is nevertheless by far the most intact of the Type C cottages that remain within the former HO146.

A particularly notable survivor outside of that boundary is the Type C dwelling at 17 King Street, which was originally designated as Government Cottage No 1. It is thus of individual heritage significance not just as a particularly intact representation of its type, but also as a marker that defines the start of the original Government Cottage area.

### Recommended Management

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

Encourage the replacement of the metal trellis supports to the front verandah with traditional timber posts.

### 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