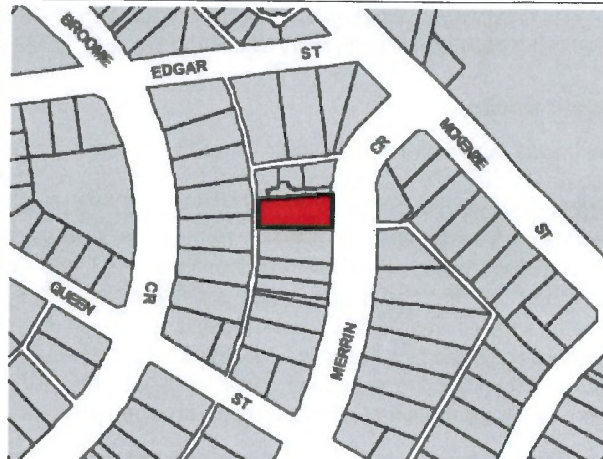


<b>PLACE</b>	MINER'S COTTAGE						
<b>Address</b>	6 Merrin Crescent WONTHAGGI						
<b>Study No</b>	WN030	<b>HO No</b>	-	<b>HPD No</b>	-	<b>Allotment No</b>	13 (Section 23)
<b>LGA</b>	Bass Coast	<b>Ward</b>	Hovell	<b>Parish</b>	Wonthaggi	<b>County</b>	Mornington



<b>Image Date</b>	17 July 2009	<b>Extent of listing</b>	Whole allotment			
<b>Designer/architect</b>	Unknown	<b>Architectural style</b>	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918) Victorian Survival?			
<b>Builder/maker</b>	Unknown	<b>Commenced</b>	1911	<b>Completed</b>	1911	
<b>Her Act Category</b>	Heritage place	<b>Historic Theme/s</b>	13.2 Building Towns (Larger Centres)			
<b>Her Item Group</b>	Residential buildings (private)	<b>Assessed by</b>	S Reeves	<b>Date</b>	28/08/09	
<b>Her Item Category</b>	House	<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 6 Merrin Street, Wonthaggi, is a small single-storey hip-roofed weatherboard cottage with a symmetrical facade and full-width verandah. First recorded on this site in 1911, the house was initially occupied by a miner, Albert Wilson, and subsequently by musician Adam Lee, who rented to a succession of tenants for the rest of the decade.

#### 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 roof 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. Atypically set well back from the street, this particularly small-scaled and intact cottage remains as a distinctive element in the streetscape (AHC Criterion E.1). The paired timber brackets along the eaves line, which recall Victorian rather than Edwardian dwellings, are a particularly rare and unusual element in the local context (AHC Criterion B.2)

### Physical Description

The house at 6 Merrin Crescent is a single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard cottage in what has been termed the Victorian Survival mode – that is, a style evocative of the timber dwellings of the later nineteenth century. It has a simple hipped roof, clad with red-painted corrugated galvanised steel, with paired consoles along the front eaves line and, towards the rear, a plain red brick chimney. The symmetrical frontage comprises a central entrance, flanked by large rectangular windows, and a full-width verandah. The front entrance has an unusually ornate timber door case, with stop-chamfered posts and rails, panelled sidelights and glazed highlights. Windows contain timber-framed double-hung sashes. The verandah, which is elevated with a timber floor, comprises a low hipped roof (in matching red-painted corrugated steel) supported on turned timber posts with scalloped brackets.

### Historical Notes

This house stands on part of Section 23 of the Township of Wonthaggi, a block of eighteen residential allotments bounded by Broome Crescent, Merrin Crescent, Edgar Street and Queens Street. The present site, designated as Lot 13 with frontage to Merrin Crescent, was rated in the first Borough of Wonthaggi Rate Book, dated June 1911, with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of only £5, which is indicative of vacant land. Its original occupant was listed as one Albert Wilson, a miner, although a scrawled amendment to the rate entry has crossed out Wilson's name and replaced it with that of Adam Lee. In the next rate book, compiled only four months later, Adam Lee, identified as a musician, is identified conclusively as the owner of Lot 13 of Section 23, now rated as a house with the substantially increased NAV of £14. Adam Lee retained ownership of the property for the remainder of the decade, during which time it was occupied by a fairly rapid succession of short-term tenants including Harry Evans (1912-13), Frederick Archer (1914-16), Charles Rees (1916-17) and Robert Carter (1918-19). The 1919-20 rate book (dated October 1919) contained a pencilled revision, where the names of Carter (as tenant) and Lee (as owner) are both crossed out for a new owner/occupant, J Bean land, miner.

### 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 6 Merrin 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, 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). In terms of physical integrity, the present house is most comparable to those cottages that survive, in substantially intact states, at 70, 73 and 121 Broome Crescent, 103 Merrin Crescent, and at 2 and 23 Caledonian Crescent. The paired timber brackets along the eaves line, which are more suggestive of Victorian rather than Edwardian residential architecture, are a particularly unusual element, seldom seen in Wonthaggi.

### 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