

PLACE	MINER'S COTTAGE (former)						
Address	12 Stewart Street WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN033	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	15 (Section 67)
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) Bungalow			
Builder/maker	Unknown	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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 12 Stewart Street is single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard cottage with a symmetrical facade, gambrel roof and integrated full-width verandah. It was erected during 1911 for Frederick W Becker, a miner, who lived there only briefly before the property was taken over by another miner, John Dixon, who remained there for two decades.

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 house provides rare evidence of the expansion of settlement towards the outer fringe of the original township after the initial centralised boom (AHC Criterion A.4).

Aesthetically, the house is significant as an atypical example of its type, representing something of a transition between the Victorian-influenced Edwardian cottage style and the emerging bungalow idiom (AHC Criterion F.1). With its unusual steep gambrel roof, integrated verandah, the house represents a striking contrast to the simpler miner's cottages with their low gabled roofs and simple low-pitched or bullnosed verandahs (AHC Criterion B.2).

Physical Description

The house at 12 Stewart Street, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard cottage, built close to the street. It has a gambrel roof, clad in corrugated steel and penetrated by a plain red brick chimney with a single terracotta chimney pot. To the street frontage, the roof extends beyond the eaves line to form an integrated verandah, supported on turned timber posts with a timber slat frieze (apparently not original). The facade is symmetrical, with a central front door (surmounted by glazed highlight) flanked by large rectangular windows with timber-framed double-hung sashes and moulded architraves.

The street boundary is marked by a timber post-and-rail timber fence with Cyclone wire mesh infill and a matching steel-framed hand-gate to the right side.

Historical Notes

This house stands on part of Section 67 of the Township of Wonthaggi, a rectangular block of eighteen residential allotments bounded by Caledonian Crescent and Billson, Dickson, Stewart streets. The present site, designated as Lot 15 with frontage to Stewart Street, is not recorded in the first Borough of Wonthaggi Rate Book, dated June 1911. It first appears in the second rate book, compiled only four months later, as a "house" with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £16, owned by Frederick W Becker, a miner. He was evidently only briefly in residence, as a pencilled amendment to the rate book for 1912-13 (dated 28 October 1912) has crossed out Becker's name and replaced it with that of John Dixon, another miner. Subsequent rate books reveal that Dixon remained living there until at least 1932. The house was occupied by Thomas Pollard, baker, by 1937.

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 12 Stewart Street, however, contrasts with the modest double-fronted Victorian-style cottages that miners built for themselves, typified by those intact surviving examples in Broome Crescent (eg Nos 48, 70, 73 and 121), Merrin Crescent (No 6) and Caledonian Crescent (Nos 2 and 23). The present house stands out for its atypical use of the gambrel roof form, and the integrated hipped verandah, which contrast, respectively, with the simple hipped or gabled roofs, and basic skillion or bullnosed verandahs, seen in most other early miner's cottages. In this regard, the house at 12 Stewart Street is most comparable to the somewhat later and larger, but otherwise very similar, house directly opposite at No 11.

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