

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: 'SNAIL' HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 11 Park Parade CAPE PATERSON

STUDY NUMBER: 210

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO26

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



'Snail' House, 11 Park Parade, Cape Paterson

Image Date: March 2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Whole allotment.

'SNAIL' HOUSE

Heritage Overlay No HO26
PropertyNo
File Number
Heritage Study No 210
Heritage Grading

HPD Number 130

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location 11 Park Parade CAPE PATERSON

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

Planning Authority

Ward Hovell

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

Whole allotment.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The 'Snail House' is of local historic significance as an example of Second World War and post-War prefabricated housing continuing the tradition set in the early days of settlement. When accommodation was urgently required to house a workforce which was responding to the demands of the Second World War, the houses were quickly erected by a small workforce. Manually constructed in groups, this building is an intact example of improved 'snail' prefabricated housing unusually in a holiday resort setting and is also of aesthetic (architectural) significance as an example of its type.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC C2: Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

Date Assessed 26/07/2004 Assessed By Fay Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

Good

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

The upkeep of general maintenance to ensure painting and colours retained.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Title Details

Architectural Style

Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940) International

Architect/Designers

Yuncken Freeman

Builders/Makers

Unknown

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Construction Started	1950s	Circa	Yes	Completed	Circa	No
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Physical Description

The house at 11 Park Parade, Cape Paterson, is a single-storey double-fronted prefabricated house with a shallow pitched gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel. External walls are clad in timber boards laid vertically and contain timber-framed double-hung sash windows. A small timber porch located at the front entry is presumably a later addition.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Good

Usage Holiday house or permanent residence

Associated People

Historical Notes

Cape Paterson was named by Lieutenant James Grant in 1801 after Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson of the NSW Corps. On an expedition to the Port Phillip District in 1826, black coal was discovered near Cape Paterson by the explorer William Hovell. Despite this knowledge being conveyed to the Colonial Government at the time, coal from the locality was not mined until 1909 when the Powlett River stream formed the basis of the mining and development of Wonthaggi. By the early 1920s, Wonthaggi residents built huts at Cape Paterson and the area became a beach and tourist holiday resort. Pre-fabricated houses have existed in Victoria from the earliest days of settlement.

In the late 1940s, when the Victorian Railways Department was in urgent need of employees, the then Minister of Transport, W S Kent-Hughes, proposed a scheme to employ 1,000 British migrants. To accommodate them, it was further proposed to import prefabricated or pre-cut housing from Europe. Proposals were invited from firms in England, Sweden and Austria, and the contract was finally given to Simms Sons & Cooke of Nottingham. To supervise the project locally, the Department engaged the noted Melbourne architects Yunken Freeman Brothers Griffiths & Simpson. By the end of 1950, two thousand of these pre-cut houses had been supplied to Victorian Railways at a rate of 40 per week, to be erected throughout Victoria. Clusters of these houses still exist around Melbourne, notably at North Coburg and Fairfield. They were also used for a number of new industrial towns in regional Victoria, including the SEC townships of Newborough (Yallourn) and Mount Beauty (Kiewa), and the SR&WSC town at Eildon. The timber-framed houses had Swedish whitewood components, which were kiln-dried, dressed, pre-painted and pre-cut so that they could be easily assembled on site without further measuring or cutting. Roof trusses, water reticulation, cupboards and electrical wiring were all prefabricated. From this standard range of components, over forty design variations could be constructed. Notwithstanding, the houses were similar in appearance, and are easily recognisable by their rectangular form, shallow gabled roofs and distinctive vertical cladding. It is unclear why this house is called the 'Snail House'.

Historic Themes

Thematic Environmental History

13.2 Coastal Towns: Quickly developing as a coastal town for holidays for the nearby miners of Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson has developed as an attractive holiday resort, as well as the neighbourhood of workers commuting to Inverloch and Wonthaggi.

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	Shelf	Location
Australian Places, 'Cape Paterson, Victoria'	Cape Paterson, Victoria.	2004		
Les Blake	Place Names of Victoria	1977		

Conservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

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Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls? No

Included in Vic Heritage Register? No

Internal Alteration Controls? No

Prohibited uses may be permitted? Yes

Tree Controls? No

Name of incorporated plan No

Outbuildings/fences not exempt? No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No