

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 16 Steele Street COWES

STUDY NUMBER: 69

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO54

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: NARRABEEN GUESTHOUSE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF PHILLIP ISLAND

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



House, 16 Steele Street, Cowes.

Image Date: March 2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Whole allotment.

HOUSE

Heritage Overlay No **H054**
PropertyNo
File Number
Heritage Study No **69**
Heritage Grading

HPD Number 50 HI Number VHR Number

Other Names/s NARRABEEN GUESTHOUSE

Precinct Group Number

Extra Files

Location 16 Steele Street COWES
PARISH OF PHILLIP ISLAND COUNTY OF MORNINGTON
COWES (T)

Planning Authority Ward Thompson

Access Description

Map Number 0 Map Scale 1:100000 Latitude Longitude

UMG Zone Easting Northing

Location Validity Spatial Accuracy

ent of Listing

Whole allotment.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The Guesthouse, 'Narrabeen', is of local historical significance as a guesthouse which has remained in operation continuously since 1932 and as such is a rare survivor of this once typical type of holiday accommodation which was largely supplanted by the motel and later the 'B&B'. It is demonstrative of a phase of development of Cowes as a seaside resort. Aesthetically it is significant as a picturesque cottage exhibiting both Edwardian and 1920s features.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region

Assessed 03/08/2004 Assessed By F Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

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

Recommended Management

Investigate original paint colours when due for repair.

Heritage Act Categories Heritage Item Groups Heritage Item Categories

Title Details

Construction Started 1920 Circa Yes Completed Circa No

Physical Description

The house at 16 Steele Street Cowes is a single-storey, inter-War weatherboard bungalow with a gabled corrugated galvanised steel roof extending over the front verandah. The roof contains a gablet with ornate bargeboards and timber shingle infill. The verandah is supported by fluted timber posts with a timber valance, brackets and balustrade. Windows are timber-framed, double-hung sashes with multi-pane upper sashes.

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Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Good.

Usage Guest House.

Associated People

Historical Notes

Originally known as Mussel Rock, Cowes was renamed in 1865 by Henry Fox, the Government Surveyor, when surveying Western Port, who named the township after the holiday resort, Cowes, on the Isle of Wight.

The guesthouse, 'Narrabeen Cottage' is situated on Allotment 14 in the Township of Cowes, which was first sold to A Serpell in the first township land sales on 3 March 1869. The current house was built in the early 1920s as the home of Mr and Mrs Bill McFee, who worked on the local ferry. According to the historian of Guest Houses on Phillip Island, Jane Cutter, the house was built 'along the lines of the 'fishermen's homes', or 'beach house' of the well-to-do at the time. It was constructed of weatherboards and cement sheeting with wooden-framed long single windows opening onto a wide verandah with a decorative wooden railing and an iron roof. To supplement their income, the McFee's took in boarders. In 1932, the McFee's converted the building into a guest house. This was known as 'Narrabeen', although it is not clear whether this was a reference to a suburb of Sydney of the same name, or a steamer which then operated in Westernport. Given McFee was a steamer operator, this seems the most likely explanation. 'Narrabeen' became known for its fine cuisine, and accommodation capacity soon rose to 32 guests by 1937/38, with a series of bungalows constructed on the property adjacent to the house. A Miss Betty Ottrey and Miss Mabel Body operated the guesthouse during the early 1950s, with Mr and Mrs Jack Sutcliffe the operators in the 1960s. From 1981 it has been owned and run by Miss Jane Daly and Christine Monk.

Historic Themes

Thematic Environmental History

13.3 Tourist Resorts and 17.1 Guest Houses: The tourist industry in Cowes has been a mainstay of the economy of Phillip Island since the nineteenth century. Cowes became a popular resort with locals from the Bass Valley and with holidaymakers from Melbourne. Families enjoyed holidays of four weeks or more in the same guest house, and many family groups met and renewed friendships annually. The guesthouse holiday was the complete holiday, where the meals were prepared and served, beds made and all free time was available to the family to enjoy sightseeing and beach activities.

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	ShelfLocation
David Williams	Memories, Moonahs & Marine Marvels	1999	
Department of Lands and Survey	Parish Plan of Phillip Island		
Jane Cutter	Guest Houses on Phillip Island	1987	

Conservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

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

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Tree Controls? No

Name of incorporated plan No

Outbuildings/fences not exempt? No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No