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# Cox's Garden Cottage



11 Cox's Garden, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006



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## Location

11 Cox's Garden WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0487

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO77

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

Cox's Garden cottage, comprising the two rooms constructed c.1858 reputedly by William Pearson for Samuel George Cox with a two-room addition constructed between 1866-75, at 11 Cox's Garden Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

Cox's Garden Cottage at 11 Cox's Garden, Williamstown is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the cottage is significant as one of a very small group of surviving pre-1860 two room timber worker's cottages in Melbourne and one of less than ten pre-1860 timber dwellings in Williamstown. Cox's Garden was a privately created subdivision and street of modest timber cottages, established by fisherman Samuel George Cox in the early 1850s and this gives the Cottage, the most intact of the surviving cottages, added significance. It is also locally important for its long association with the Randall family who owned and occupied the Cottage between c.1866 and 1978 and were associated with the maritime industry in Williamstown over a long period. (AHC criteria A4, B2 and H1)

Socially, the cottage is significant as a rare example of an early workers cottage. The front two rooms are the original cottage dating from c.1858 and illustrate the very basic nature of the housing of many Melburnians in the 1850s. (AHC criteria B2 and D2)

Aesthetically, the cottage is architecturally significant as a now rare example of a very early timber house, which makes an important contribution to the historic character of the Cox's Garden Heritage Precinct. Internally, the survival of the rough sawn timber internal lining boards with wallpaper over fabric and hessian fixed to them and timber shake roof cladding beneath the recent corrugated iron sheeting, is very unusual. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

*Note: Included on the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H487.*

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Other Names Cox's Garden Cottage,

Hermes Number 15006

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The house at 11 Cox's Garden, Williamstown is a simple double fronted, hip-roof cottage. Originally of two rooms, a further two rooms were added in a separate hip roof bay at the rear. It is clad with wide softwood weather boards to the front walls and corrugated iron to the roof (the section at the front covers the original shingles). Slim mouldings provide architraves to openings; the four-panel door, unlike other early houses in Cox's Garden, having no toplight.

Changes to the external fabric include the spiked ogee profile guttering, the replacement of the multi-paned windows in the rear addition, the replacement of the front door, the replacement of some of the weatherboards (some original beaded boards survive on the north elevation), the addition of small square windows in the north elevation, and the replacement of the presumed arrow head picket fence with the present interwar woven wire fence.

Internally, the building has deteriorated with the loss of much of the original dividing wall fabric.

## **Integrity**

External Integrity and condition

*Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Poor.*

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

A contributory element within the Cox's Garden precinct. It is now the only cottage surviving on the west side of Cox's Garden and one of only four early houses in this typically narrow off street residential subdivision: others include Nos. 12, 10, and 4, each possessing differing degrees of integrity. The setting of the cottage is greatly diminished by the car park to the north.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Making Suburbs

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

Samuel George Cox, George Morwick, Frederick Randall

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*