
Kell's Cottage



B7263 Kell's Cottage

Location

14 William Street,, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284 - Property No B7263

Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2078

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 11, 2008

What is significant? The four roomed timber cottage is understood to have been constructed in the 1840s for Andrew Cowan Kell. The cottage has two distinct sections, thought to have been constructed at the same time. The front two rooms are constructed on a stone plinth with a hipped roof over and the rear two rooms have a skillion roof. The front verandah has limestone flagging and simple timber posts with decorative brackets. It is possible that the structural timbers are imported including the unusual wide double rebated weatherboards. How is it significant? The cottage is significant for architectural and historical reasons at a State Level. It may also be of technical significance due to the imported timbers.

Why is it significant? The building is of architectural and historical significance as a rare surviving example of a 1840s timber cottage in Victoria. It is particularly important for its intactness and lack of later additions of which few examples remain. The cottage demonstrates the humble living conditions of the early settlers. The cottage is one of the early private buildings constructed in Port Fairy following the Atkinson lease or freehold sale of land in the early 1840s.

The cottage may have scientific interest in terms of the structural timbers which are thought to be imported and the unusual double rebated timber lining boards.

Classified: 08/09/2004

2010 Note: Cottage under conservation since 2008.

Hermes Number 71564

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The four roomed timber cottage with verandah is positioned well back from the William Street frontage of the block and along with the vegetative overgrowth on the site, it is now practically invisible from the street. Behind the cottage is a possibly later structure housing the laundry and general shed with an unattached WC adjacent.

The cottage is believed to have been constructed in a single phase, although there are two distinct parts to the building. The front two rooms have a hipped corrugated iron roof and wide weatherboard wall cladding, constructed on a stone plinth. The weatherboards are dressed hardwood with a rebate top and bottom of each board. The nails are forged iron and remnants of a darkish red paint can be seen under later paint coats to the timber boards. The internal floors are timber. The chimney on the southern wall is of limestone blocks with basalt quoins for the lower section and brickwork for the upper part. The verandah has limestone flagging, simple timber posts with decorative brackets.

The rear two rooms of the building are under a skillion roof of corrugated iron, although there is evidence of "shingles" under the iron. The external cladding is lapped pine weatherboards. The flooring is timber. There is a chimney on the southern wall of similar construction to the chimney to the front section of the building. There is reticulated water and waste disposal piping and the section is lined with split palings.

The laundry shed behind the cottage has a gable roof and is connected to the cottage by a covered way. The roof is of corrugated iron and the wall cladding is weatherboard. The building is of uncertain age.

Intactness

The cottage is surprisingly intact externally. Internally, it is understood to have an added fireplace overmantel and reticulated water and waste pipes in the kitchen and bathroom. The toilet is external, in a fibro-cement clad cubicle.

The weatherboard cladding on the skillion roof section is of conventional cross section softwood, as is the laundry shed at the rear of the cottage. The cottage is empty, the last occupant dying early in 2004. The site is heavily overgrown with *Coprosma repens* suckers and more mature plants.

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/>