

# GERMAN COTTAGE



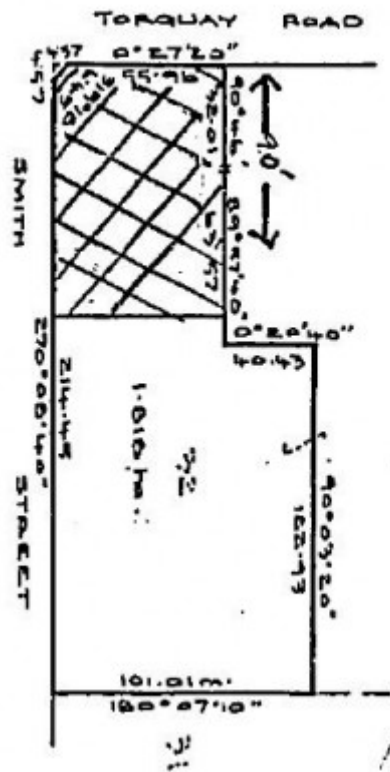
GERMAN COTTAGE SOHE  
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german cottage torquay road  
grovedale front view  
publication



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road grovedale front view  
sep1991



## h00714 plan h0714

## Location

5-9 SMITH STREET AND 222-224 TORQUAY ROAD GROVEDALE, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0714

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO98

## VHR Registration

December 21, 1988

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 1999

The Cottage at 224 Torquay Road, Grovedale is an early example of a German settler's Cottage located in one of the earliest and most important of early German settlements in Victoria in the mid nineteenth century, Germantown (now Grovedale). The property is one of the last surviving of the early settlement and is distinctive and original both in its form and methods of construction.

Grovedale near Geelong (Germantown prior to the 1914-18 war) was the first German settlement in Victoria. The settlers, Lutherans from Prussia, soon established a church and a schoolhouse. They planted vineyards, cut wood and grew vegetables which they sold in Geelong. They also grew oats and grain in what was primarily an agricultural settlement.

The site of the Cottage at 224 Torquay Road was one of the original holdings of 1854. The owner of the Cottage c. 1857 was Johann Sohr. The house and land was purchased in 1881-2 by a Danish Lutheran, Johann Andressen who was married to a German. The Andressen family lived there until the 1940s. The design of the house has been described as unique in Victoria. A two storey light timber-framed house, it consisted originally of a two-up, two-down floor plan, but has since been extended. The kitchen appears to have been part of an 1890s renovation/alteration. The house is an interesting example of adaptive building construction representing a merging of two building traditions, north German and British Colonial.

The interiors are predominantly timber packed with mud (or pug) with Baltic pine lining boards and various pieces of furniture and fittings made of packing case timbers. The Cottage is in fair to good condition, although in need of attention. The roof (both interior and exterior) is sound. As far as the fittings are concerned, the integrity is high, including an extraordinary stairway to an upper floor.

The German Cottage at 224 Torquay Road, Grovedale is of architectural and historic importance for the following reasons: - as a rare and intact remnant of Victoria's earliest German settlement, most probably dating from the mid 1850s. - the Cottage represents a rare and fine example of the building techniques introduced by German settlers in the area last century which together with their traditional farming methods, churches and schools, amounted to a substantial multi-cultural contribution to nineteenth century Colonial society.

It is an important example of adaptive building construction resulting from the merging of two vernacular building traditions, north German and British Colonial. - as one of the last mid nineteenth century German domestic dwellings in Victoria in a relatively good state of integrity in an area that was important for its German community in the nineteenth century - as a reflection of the predominantly agricultural lifestyle of those pioneer German settlers who from the 1830s left their homelands fleeing religious persecution to settle in the Australian colonies.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1854,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	561
Property Number	

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## Plaque Citation

German Cottage is a fine example of German vernacular building practice. It is one of the last surviving cottages in Grovedale, originally known as Germantown, which from the 1850s housed a thriving German community.

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 714.

German Cottage - 224 Torquay Road, Grovedale - City of South Barwon

to the extent of the land and buildings shown hatched which are included in the Register Book Certificate of Title

Volume 9810 Folio 685.

[Victoria Government Gazette G49 21 December 1988 p.3901]

*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/>*