

Victorian Heritage Database Report

PREFABRICATED IRON COTTAGE

**Location:**

155 MT DUNEED ROAD MOUNT DUNEED, SURF COAST SHIRE

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1131

Listing Authority: VHR

Heritage Overlay Number: HO17

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

The two room prefabricated iron cottage on the Summerhill farm at Mt Duneed is believed to have been brought to Australia by Mr James Williams with his family from England c1855. It measures 24'x12' in plan and is 9.5 ' high to the top of the segmental arched roof. The roof and walls are of 5" corrugated iron, with no supporting frame.

How is it significant?

The prefabricated iron cottage at Summerhill, Mt Duneed is of scientific, historic, social and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The prefabricated iron cottage at Summerhill, Mt Duneed is important because it demonstrates British technical accomplishment in the history of prefabricated building construction. The development of a galvanising process in the 1840s, the fabrication of rolled sections of wrought iron from about 1850, and the use of grooved or fluted rollers to improve the production of corrugated iron in 1844 enabled construction of this prefabricated iron building. The cottage at Mt Duneed incorporates all these developments which had all occurred within the 15 years prior to its importation and erection in Geelong.

The prefabricated iron cottage at Summerhill, Mt Duneed is important for demonstrating the innovative solutions provided by the use of imported prefabricated buildings to cope with housing shortages caused by the gold rushes in Australia and California in the early 1850's. It is a rare example of a two room prefabricated iron cottage and one of only a small number of prefabricated iron buildings remaining which date from the early 1850's. It is the only known curved roof single storey cottage extant in Victoria. The prefabricated iron cottage at Summerhill, Mt Duneed provides an extraordinary example of the simple living conditions of some of the early emigrants to Victoria.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1855 -
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	SURF COAST SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	2044
Property number	

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online