

MONTROSE COTTAGE

21-23 Eureka Street, East Ballarat

erected c.1856

John Alexander (builder)



CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

Historic Buildings Register

Register of the National Estate

Classified: National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Montrose Cottage be specified under the provisions of Clause 8 of the *Town and Country Planning Act* (Third Schedule), as well as its retention on the Historic Buildings Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BUILDING HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Montrose Cottage was built about 1856 by Scottish stone mason John Alexander. Using bluestone and hand-made bricks, the building was a more solid version of the small timber cottages, hundreds of which were built in Ballarat by this date.⁴

The front elevation is symmetrical with the common arrangement of twelve paned windows around a central doorway. The corrugated iron roof was replaced in the 1960's by shingles, presumably in view of the fact that the building was originally shingled. Other changes occurred in the 1960's when restoration was undertaken: the rear kitchen was unfortunately demolished and all later chimneys and fireplaces were also demolished using the same thinking that saw the corrugated iron removed.

The house (now open to the public as a museum) is important as a substantial and very early stone cottage, built in a period when timber was the accepted building material of a transitory population.

1. National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No.1221.