

## Identification and location

**Name of Place:** **Dee Cottage**

**Other Name**

**Address** 122 Whitehall Street

Yarraville

**Place Identifier** 8834

**Heritage Significance** city

**Creation date(s):** 1880

**Map (Melway)** 42 C9

**Boundary description** The house and yard as delineated by the present fenced block.

**Local Government Area:** City of Maribyrnong

**Ownership Type** Private

## Description

**Site Type:** house

### Physical Description

Double fronted Italianate cottage with arched windows either side of the central entrance doorway, Constructed in Flemish bond brickwork and rendered mouldings. The hipped roof is clad in slate with some remaining ogee p-pattern gutters. Originally with a veranda across the front, but now stripped of some detail.

### Condition

In fair condition, brickwork has been painted and some rear sections are lacking maintenance.

### Integrity

Generally intact although parts of the roof have been reclad and the verandah altered.

### Context

One of two residences remaining in the vicinity of the Yarraville industrial complexes.

### Threats

None presently known

## History

It is believed that Dee Cottage was built in 1880 by a bricklayer named David Goudie (ICIANZ 1970). Gaudie's address was given as the Commercial Hotel, just over the road, but it is not known whether he ever actually lived in the house (Sands & McDougall). Dee Cottage is situated next to the site of the former Cuming Smith & Co fertiliser works (later owned by ICIANZ). The company acquired the house some time in the 1880s or early '90s, and it became attached to the works as the works manager's house. One of the firm's owners, James Cuming Snr, involved all his five sons in the business.

In 1883 the occupant was listed as Robert Cuming, presumably the eldest son who established the Adelaide Chemical Works Co. James Cuming Snr lived there from 1887-89. Second son James Jnr, lived there in 1891-2, before moving to "Huntley", a large house in Willis Street Yarraville.

James Jnr became General Manager of the Company in 1897. Third son George lived at Dee Cottage in 1895-6, presumably while he had the responsibility of works manager (Rate Books; ADB James Cuming; Sands & McDougall).

Later occupants of Dee Cottage included company employees A.G. Garnsworthy, Horace Greig, a power engineer, and Jack Carter, a foreman lead burner, who lived there with his family from 1929 until his retirement in 1963. By then the firm was owned by ICIANZ. Carter was followed by senior maintenance engineer, Bruce Norton, who was still living there in 1970 (ICIANZ 1970).

Two large elm trees believed to have been planted at the time Dee Cottage was built were still standing beside the house in 1970 (ICIANZ 1970).

The next three or four houses after Dee Cottage were also owned by the company for housing their workers. One of these, 225 Whitehall Street, was the home of fifth son William while he was manager in the early 1900s (Rate Books; Sands & McDougall; ADB; Lack 1991).

### Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme:

Local Theme

### Cultural Significance

Dee cottage is of historical and architectural significance to the City of Maribyrnong as a relatively intact early residence, used as a company house by the nearby Cuming Smith & Co. works and built in association with major industrial development and closely related historically to the local industries which gave it its purpose. (Criteria B2 & D2) Distinctive architectural form of the period also relatively intact and well preserved. (Criterion F1)

The site has significant historical associations as a former residence of James Cuming, founder and principal of Cuming Smith fertiliser works and one of Footscray's most prominent citizens. (Criterion H1)

### Comparative Examples

One of a small number of 1880s residences in the immediate district comparable with 21 Bell Street Footscray.

### Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate

## Maribyrnong Heritage Review - Industrial Places

National Trust Register	<input type="text" value="file only B2815"/>
Other Heritage Listings	<input type="text" value="Footscray Conservation study"/>
Planning Scheme Protection	<input type="text" value="Recommended"/>
External Paint Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Tree Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?	<input type="text" value="No"/>

### Recommendations

Significance and the cited fabric or contributory elements.  
To conserve and enhance the significant elements of the place.  
To conserve and enhance the public view of these elements.  
To conserve and enhance the visual relationships between the contributory elements.  
To ensure that new or altered elements within the place are visually recessive and related to the contributory elements.  
To encourage continuation of the original use of the place.

### Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

*B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.*

Unusual in its role as a residence associated with a major industrial complex.

*D2 Importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).*

Representative to the period of the region's development when factory managers and staff lived by necessity on or adjacent to the workplace. It is also associated with several prominent local industrialists.

*F1 Importance for their technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.*

Distinctive architectural form of the period also relatively intact and well preserved.

*H1 Importance for their close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, state or region.*

As a former residence of James Cuming, founder and principal of Cuming Smith fertiliser works and one of Footscray's most prominent citizens.

### Documentation

#### References

Article on Dee Cottage, *ICIANZ Circle*, 7.August 1970.  
Sands & McDougall Directories  
City of Footscray Rate Books;  
Lack J, James Cuming entry in Serle, G., and Nairn, B., *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 8, Melbourne, 1981,  
Lack J. *History of Footscray 1991*.

### Data recording

Assessed By   
Assessed Date: