
CURATOR'S COTTAGE (FORMER), QUEENS PARK



Moonee Valley Heritage
Review 1998

Location

off The Strand MOONEE PONDS, Moonee Valley City

Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1078

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO69

Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former curator's cottage at Queens Park was built between 1891 and 1898 and may have been designed by the architect Joseph Cowan. Heritage Council Statement of Significance: The former curator's cottage is of

architectural, historic and aesthetic significance to Victoria.

The cottage has artistic associations with the Picturesque landscape movement of the early nineteenth century in Britain, demonstrated by the use of the Victorian Rustic Gothic style in a landscaped setting next to the ornamental lake in Queens Park. As possibly the only example of a timber Victorian Rustic Gothic curator's cottage and the only known example with a shingled roof and dormers, the building is a relatively rare example of a curator's cottage in a large public garden.

The building demonstrates outstanding craftsmanship and decoration in the use of shingles to the roof, scalloped shingles to the walls, decorative criss-cross timber valance, timber finials and tied pendants, including smaller finials to the three dormers.

It represents the important functions played by the curator in public gardens. The curator was involved not only in the development and management of the gardens, but also their protection and security. The cottage, located in a prominent and central position near the lake and once adjacent to the now demolished conservatory, reflects the roles of the curator.

The cottage demonstrates an association with John Oliver, the first curator at Queens Park, who was appointed in 1891 and who retired in 1938. John Oliver also worked at Ballarat Botanical Gardens and the Chirnside's estate at Werribee and advised on the designs for the gardens at Duntroon Military College and for other municipalities.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - City of Moonee Valley Heritage Study, Andrew Ward, 1998;
Construction dates	1891,
Architect/Designer	Cowan, Joseph Charles M,
Hermes Number	23982
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

A picturesque Carpenters Gothic cottage distinguished by its steeply pitched shingled roof, dormers and chimneys, fish scale shingles and king post ornamentation to the gable ends, boxed eaves with pendants, fringed fascias, window bay and criss cross verandah frieze.

Integrity

Condition: sound. Integrity: High,garden context.

Historical Australian Themes

8.1.3. Developing public parks and gardens.

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/>