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# Gumnuts



B2254 Gumnuts

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## Location

619 Nepean Highway,, FRANKSTON SOUTH VIC 3199 - Property No B2254

## Municipality

FRANKSTON CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1328

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 18, 2005

Gumnuts cottage is the best surviving example of the one-roomed houses designed by architect Walter Burley Griffin. It was constructed in 1922 and is believed to have been used by Griffin and his wife as a seaside retreat. Gumnuts is built in the knitlock concrete block wall and roof tile system that Griffin invented in 1917. The knitlock walls consist of interlocking grooved concrete tiles which join together to form the inner and outer wall faces. The thickness of the wall panels between the structural rib tiles is approximately 2 1/2 inches. These wall units allowed great flexibility in design using a 6" module in all directions. The knitlock concrete roofing tiles are laid in a diamond pattern. The simple casement windows and planked doors are similar to those in the other low-cost houses that Griffin designed. Originally, the exterior walls were left unpainted, while the timber fascia and joinery

was stained a dark green.

Gumnuts cottage is designed on a 3'6" module and consists of a central living area under a low-pitched pyramidal ceiling, surrounded by sleeping and reading alcoves, an entrance lobby, a bathroom and a kitchen.

The whole house is contained in a square of 21 feet. Gumnuts is a rare example of absolute simplicity in plan and structure, and of the welding of the many parts of a house into a coherent pattern. Because of the originality of the design and the method of its construction, Gumnuts cottage is of national significance.

Classified: 03/02/1983

Hermes Number 65517

Property Number

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*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/>*