

# Federation Bungalows (1890-1915)



This brochure is one of a series of Housing Style Information Brochures based on the common housing styles in the Town of Vincent. The brochure provides details on the origins and distinct features of the housing types within Vincent. Other brochures in this series include: ■ Late Colonial Georgian Dwellings ■ Weatherboard Dwellings ■ Inter-war Californian Bungalows ■ Post-war Bungalows

## Background

Federation in 1901 not only united the Australian colonies as one nation, but bore witness to the emergence of a distinctive domestic style of architecture – the Federation Bungalow. This architectural form flourished in a wave of prosperity that launched the new century.

Federation Bungalows were an Australian version of the English Edwardian house. It can be regarded as a transition between the Federation Queen Ann and the Inter-war California Bungalow styles; it cast off the picturesque complexities of the former and did not display its structural carpentry as much as the latter. Federation Bungalows vary quite often from one to the other in appearance; however, the definitive examples of the style share the qualities of homely simplicity and robust honesty.



TOV Local History Collection PH02243  
courtesy C Jones

## Key characteristics of Federation Bungalows include:

### Outside

- Usually tuck-pointed brick.
- Simple hipped roofs, often with a projecting gable. Witches' hats, gablets and various gables feature in grander bungalows.
- Roofs covered with terracotta tiles or painted corrugated metal, usually steeply-sloped with wide eaves
- Stucco detailing.
- Gable ends ornamented with roughcast and battens painted in dark colours.
- Verandahs ornamented with turned timber or cast iron columns, balustrades and a frieze.
- Round bullseye to multi-paned and coloured casement sash windows, often with leadlights featuring Australian flora or fauna.

### Inside

- A standard rectangular plan of parlour, best bedroom(s) and hallway built in brick with additional bedrooms, kitchen, eating and service areas built in weatherboard at the rear.
- Details and finishes of the front rooms always of a high standard for public appearances, including elaborate cornices, ceiling roses, fireplaces, mantle pieces, high skirtings and moulded architraves.
- Detail less elaborate beyond the hall arch which separated the public and private spheres and in some instances non existent. Skirting boards lower, cornices, air vents and ceiling roses simpler beyond the hall arch.

### Garden

- Gardens divided into a front garden, which had a neat public appearance, and a back productive area.
- Residences not connected to water relied on tanks, private and communal wells and windmills.
- Front fences were more commonly pickets of decorative wire netting while side fences were of simple palings.
- Due to limited water supply and harsh growing conditions, hardy and drought-tolerant plants were favoured.
- Night closets were located in the rear or backyards until approximately 1910 when septic tanks and deep sewerage were introduced.

### Maintenance Advice

- Rising damp is a common cause of deterioration in stone and brick buildings and is recognised by fretting masonry, mould, peeling paint, a musty smell and a horizontal tide mark on internal walls.

To prevent rising damp, remove areas for water catchment and dampness. Remove mounds of soil and debris adjacent to walls and maintain or replace gutters and downpipes to keep stormwater away from building foundations. It is important to consult an experienced professional on appropriate remedial works, such as the replacement of the damp-proof course, to prevent further deterioration.

- Some buildings have been painted which were not originally painted. For paint removal, only gentle treatments should be used which will not damage the masonry.
- Generally painting of masonry is not recommended. However, should you wish to paint a masonry building proceed with caution as some paints can create problems by trapping moisture and salts behind an impermeable membrane.



### Renovation Advice

- Do as little as possible but as much as necessary.
- Additions should be carefully inspected to locate original parts before demolition occurs. It is not unusual to find original features stored in sheds or adapted for new uses.
- Before starting any physical works, research old records, photographs and plans/elevations to assist in an authentic restoration.

### Health and Safety

- Asbestos was a widely used building material until the early 1980s. Prior to commencing any works on your home it is important you establish if there is any asbestos present in the existing building.
- Lead paints were also commonly used until the 1980s and can be toxic. Consult your local hardware supplier about the safest method of removal.



### References

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