

ANZAC COTTAGE, MOUNT HAWTHORN



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Anzac Cottage
Other names	Residence, 38 Kalgoorlie St
Place type	Individual building or group
HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	3344
State Heritage Register:	20 Oct 2000
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 Register of the National Estate Permanent 28 May 1996 Classified by the National Trust Classified 12 Jun 2089 Statewide War Memorial Survey Completed 01 May 1996
SITE LOCATION	
Street address	38 Kalgoorlie St
Locality	Mount Hawthorn
Survey	LOT: 15 D/P: 1659
Vol/folio	1918/578
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Rare or outstanding example: essential to the heritage of the City of Vincent.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place is a rare example of an architect designed workers' cottage. While the internal arrangement is a conventional configuration, the combination of materials and detailing is unusual for workers' cottages from the era.</p> <p>The place was the first war memorial built in Australia to commemorate the participation of Australian troops in World War I.</p> <p>The place is representative of the effect that Australia's role in World War I, and the role of the Anzacs in particular, had on the Western Australian community in the immediate aftermath of the Gallipoli campaign.</p> <p>The place is a good example of a modest residential building constructed in suburban Perth in the 1910s, which is made exceptional by virtue of the circumstances of its construction by the Mount Hawthorn community as a war memorial and as a result has come to represent the values that are associated with the Anzac tradition in Australia.</p> <p>The technical innovation and achievement of constructing a brick and tile cottage with the trades and skills of over 200 people from the Mount Hawthorn community in a single day in 1916 is a significant accomplishment.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current use	Museum
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1916; 1997
Walls	Brick
Roof	Terracotta Tile
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne
Physical description	<p>This single storey red brick, hipped roof cottage has a broken pitch verandah supported by timber posts. The symmetrical façade is decorated with stucco bands and decoration under the triple casement windows either side of the central front door. The twin gablets are infilled with roughcast. The roof has terracotta tiles.</p> <p>The word "ANZAC" is written in coloured leadlight in the fanlight above the front door. Cemented front steps with urns lead to the verandah.</p> <p>There is a flag pole in the front yard. Setback appropriate to residential context. The flat site has minimal plantings.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This building is unique in Australia in that it was the first war memorial built to commemorate those who had fought in World War 1 and also that it was built as a house to accommodate a returned soldier. Its construction was initiated by the Mount Hawthorn Progress Association in 1915. In December that year the Westralian Worker announced: 'It is to perpetuate the memory of Australia's gallant sons who took part in this now historic landing that the Mount Hawthorn Progress Association are appealing for funds to erect a practical monument. Once of those who took his place in the attack on April 25th and who has returned to us disabled for life is Private John Porter, and it is intended that the monument to be erected should take the form of a home for Mr Porter and his wife and child, which will be called Anzac Cottage'.

Private Cuthbert John Porter migrated to Western Australia in 1913. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces on 3 September 1914 and his regimental number was 1013. He was wounded in action at the Dardanelles, Gallipoli Peninsula on 23 June 1915 and repatriated home. He was discharged from the Army on 10 July 1916, having declared medically unfit due to a wound in his left leg with several pieces of shrapnel lodged behind his kneecap. Fund raising for the cottage began in earnest with ex/Mayor John Veryard being the first to donate. Such was the response from the public that the original idea of a 'small wooden structure' was soon upgraded to a four-roomed brick cottage. In all they raised 185 pounds and the remainder was met by donations of labour and goods.

The land for the cottage was provided by real estate agent James Peet, for 25 pounds and the site was described as 'overlooking the northern shores of Monger's Lake and surrounded by some of the finest scenery in the Metropolitan area'. The site was cleared by 30 volunteers during the first of three busy-bees held on 29 January 1916, with the Ladies Patriotic Guild providing afternoon tea. Preparations of the joinery work had also begun at that time. Building materials, furnishings and money were provided by Perth businesses, and a 'carter's bee' held on 5 February 1916, resulted in a half-mile long procession of vehicles transporting materials to the site.

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The Anzac Cottage souvenir booklet stated that: 'No finer display of Patriotic and industrial effort has ever been seen in Perth than... when 70 drays, laden with building material, formed up a procession. Fully 150 men gave up their Saturday afternoon... Mrs C Roberts, the 'Soldiers Queen' headed the procession in her motor car, which also carried a Metters' stove and copper, and was accompanied by two other decorated motor cars. Then came 20 drays of stone, 27 of bricks, 1 of lime, 3 of tiles, 12 of timber, 1 of cement and paints, 1 of scaffolding, 1 tiled grate, 1 large enamel bath, 1 of refreshments, and 1 of sundries. The procession was viewed by thousands as it proceeded to Mount Hawthorn, and on arrival at Anzac was greeted by hundreds of enthusiastic men, women and children'.

The architect for Anzac Cottage was Alfred Levido, who lived in Coogee Street. Councillor Sidney Gibson, a building contractor, supervised the construction, which involved over 200 volunteers from the community and took place in a single day, 12 February 1916 (the third busy bee), with women serving hot meals in relays to the workers. Construction began at 3am and by 5pm a flag was raised with 'A.N.Z.A.C' embroidered on it - the cottage being virtually completed within this one day. The Perth City Gardener supervised the laying of the lawn, and the house was completed with fence and flag pole.

When completed the cottage was valued at 600 pounds and the deeds were subsequently vested in the Trustees of the Progress Association. On 15 April 1916, Anzac Cottage was officially opened by the Premier John Scadden and his wife who unlocked the door and declared it open in front of a crowd of 3,000 people, including officials from Mount Hawthorn Progress Association. It was officially handed over to Private Porter, the following day, by Mrs C. Roberts who had started the first trench for the foundations. The deeds were vested in the Trustees of the Progress Association. The Porter family occupied the cottage from 1916 to 1917 and one of their tasks every year on Anzac Day was to raise the flag at 4am to commemorate the Gallipoli landings

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After his death in 1964, his wife Annie carried on the tradition until her own death in 1978. Private Porter's grand daughter, Anne Chapple, has researched and written historical pieces on the cottage and the Porter family, which have won historical awards at both the Town of Vincent (Local History Centre) and the West Australian Historical Society. During the 1970's some small alterations were made to the rear of the house but it became very run down after the Porters left as the Progress Association had long since folded. Then in 1994, ownership was transferred to the Vietnam Veteran's Association (VVA), perpetuating its link with returned service personnel.

A conservation plan was prepared in 1996, and the cottage was restored with the assistance of the Mt Hawthorn Anzac Cottage Restoration Group. The project was coordinated by Peter Ramsey, President of VVA, and it won the Town's Building Design and Conservation Award in 3003. The project took 11 years to complete. Anzac Cottage was reopened on 20 April 1997 by the West Australia Governor, Sanderson. A final dedication ceremony was held on 7 April 2002 during which the governor's wife, Mrs Lorraine Sanderson re-laid the memorial plaque in the front gate pillar.

The cottage was then used as the headquarters of the VVA and one of the front rooms was let to the Coeliac Society of WA. The house currently functions as a museum and a venue for VVA activities which include an annual Anzac Day Service held at sunset and therefore the last such service held each time in Australia, The deeds to Anzac Cottage were handed over by the VVA in trust the Town of Vincent ceremony held on 16 April 2006, the 90th anniversary of the cottage and in 2021 it was transferred to the National Trust of Western Australia. In 2007 local author Valeries Everett published a children's book *The House That Was Built in a Day*, which tells the story of its beginnings and commemorates the Anzac's bravery.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the subject place has changed little since that time.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION		
Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic development Cultural Life: Domestic Life Governing: Law, Order and Defence International Links	
Associations	Private Cuthbert John Porter James Peet Alfred Levido Anne Chapple Vietnam Veteran's Association National Trust of Western Australia Valerie Everett	Owner and occupier Estate Agent Architect Granddaughter and researcher Owner Owner Children's book author
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



The Site of Anzac Cottage before clearing. City of Vincent



Kalgoorlie Street during the construction of Anzac Cottage, 12 February 1916 City of Vincent



Anzac Cottage construction, 12 February 1916 City of Vincent