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**DWELLING, KEATING'S COTTAGE**

**MEL:001**

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**Place Name and Address:** \*Dwelling, Keating's Cottage, Brewery Street,  
Melrose

**LOCATION:** Brewery Street, Melrose South Australia 5483  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** District Council of Mount Remarkable  
**LAND DESCRIPTION:** Part Lot 32, Sec 100 Hd Wongyarra, CT  
2363/64

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**OWNER:** Mrs VE Keating  
20 Noble Street, Whyalla Stuart South  
Australia 5608

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**REGISTER STATUS:** Registered 12 January 1984  
**Heritage South Australia File No.:** 10156

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**PHOTOGRAPH:** FP 19 - 35



Dwelling, Keating's Cottage

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**DWELLING, KEATING'S COTTAGE****MEL:001**

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**DESCRIPTION**

A simple single storeyed cottage, believed to be built from pug and pine with stone chimneys. The walls have been clad with corrugated iron, as has the roof, disguising what are thought to be shingles below. Several lean-to additions have been constructed at the side and rear of the house.

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**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE**

Constructed of pug and pine probably in c.1850-1860 and largely unchanged, the house is of significance as a remarkably intact early cottage. It illustrates methods and materials used in construction in the Melrose area and the way of life of the people of those communities.

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**HISTORY**

The house is believed to have been constructed by William Williams in the mid -1850s. The cottage changed hands many times during its history. In 1954 it was transferred to Paul J Keating, a labourer of Melrose and is now in the hands of Mrs VE Keating.

The township of Melrose was created by the Mount Remarkable Mining Company who expected to find copper. The venture was unsuccessful and the Company was dissolved. The land was divided sections for farming and two townships were laid out, Melrose being one of them. Melrose became a local service centre for the surrounding pastoral stations. It became a small administrative, business and social centre.

Two generations of Keatings have lived in this cottage which retains its earth floors, calico lined walls and ceilings and wood stove. The only changes to have been made include the provision of electric wiring, cladding the building with corrugated iron and laying lino and carpet over the earth floors.

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**REFERENCES:**

Heritage South Australia File 10156.



To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Head, European Section, Heritage Conservation Branch

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION:  
KEATING COTTAGE,  
SURVEY ROAD (SEARLE STREET) MELROSE

Date: 24 January 1983

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#### SUMMARY

This report has been prepared as part of a continuing programme to evaluate National Estate items for the State Register. This item was considered by the previous South Australian Heritage Committee but was deferred pending more information on its relative importance. The building is under no threat.

Historically, Keating Cottage is significant as an example of the resourcefulness of mid 19th century settlers in constructing dwellings from materials available locally and is a reflection of the way of life during the period between 1850-1870 in the more remote areas of the State.

Architecturally, Keating Cottage is a simple building reflecting traditional building technology and form.

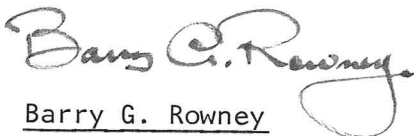
Environmentally, Keating Cottage is important for its contribution to the traditional scale and pattern of development of Melrose.

The Integrity of Keating Cottage is high, being basically intact as far as its interior and general form are concerned. Additions and 'new' cladding have interrupted or obscured portions of the original cottage.

The building is listed on the Classified List of the National Trust and is on the National Estate.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Keating Cottage, Survey Road, Melrose, be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized H3, A3.

  
Barry G. Rowney

IN:JD

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures						
	Item	KEATING COTTAGE MELROSE					
Age 1860 Unconfirmed	Theme		Office 6532-10156				
Period 1852-1883	Subject SETTLEMENT - Early		Region 9 Upper North				
Building Type Dwelling	Style VERNACULAR		Status N.Tr. (CL) N.E.R.				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			<u>Grading</u>				
Component		Comment	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>History</u>							
1. Context:	Associated with the development of Melrose into a township from land acquired by the Mt. Remarkable Mining Company, which unsuccessfully sought copper from the 20,000 Special Survey of land. It also reflects the adaptabilities of the people who settled there in the mid 19th century.			*			
2. Person/Group:	Present owner: Paul Joseph Keating.				*		
3. Event:	No main event known.						*
<u>Architecture</u>							
4. Builder:	Not readily available.						*
5. Architecture:	Simple single storey cottage with a steep hip roof, two chimneys on one side, several stages reflected in attached skillions at side and rear, simple proportions and symmetrical design, clad totally in corrugated iron.				*		
6. Construction:	Believed to be pug and pine construction but all of the walls have since been clad in corrugated iron, stone chimneys, corrugated iron hip roof, believed to have shingles below but not verified.				*		
7. Interior:	Spartan, plaster and fabric lined walls, cloth ceiling, dirt floors, rough timber joinery, access was available to the main room only, interesting in its intactness.			*			
8. Representation:	One of two of a similar design in Melrose, while simple cottages are still common in the region and State the steep roof form on this one is of interest.			*			



South  
Australian  
Heritage  
Act  
1978-80

Register of State Heritage Items  
ITEM EVALUATION SHEET  
Buildings and Structures

Item KEATING COTTAGE  
MELROSE

Component

Comment

Grading

E VG AG FP NA

Environment

9. Continuity: Set apart and somewhat isolated in the residential portion of Melrose, adjacent buildings vary from turn of the century buildings to modern prefabs.
10. Local Character: Supports the traditional nature and pattern of development in Melrose.
11. Landmark: Steep roof form set apart from the other buildings, familiar local landmark in its immediate context.

Integrity

12. Alterations: Interior appears very intact, externally the whole building has been clad in corrugated iron, iron and fibro skillions have been added to rear and side, portion of the front verandah is enclosed, masonry chimneys have been painted, form of original cottage still evident.
13. Condition: No obvious defects, structure not accessible for evaluation, in need of maintenance.
14. Compatibility: Still used as a private residence.

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Supplementary Information

Adaptation: The interior of the main rooms should be retained and maintained if at all possible and any required upgradings should be reversible. The building's external form should be maintained and the restoration of the building materials and removal of additions encouraged. If removal is not feasible then they should be treated so as to not be intrusive on the building's originality.

Interpretation: The cottage's interpretive role is basically passive as part of Melrose's traditional character. The building has a potential for a more active role but a low thematic significance do not require this.

Current Owner: The present owner is John Paul Keating.

Evaluated By Iris Iwanicki, Register Historian  
Ivar Nelsen, Register Historian

Reviewed By Mark A. Butcher  
Register Supervisor

HISTORICAL RESEARCH REPORT: KEATING COTTAGE, MELROSE

Keating Cottage is located on Lot 32 in Survey Road, Melrose (otherwise known as Searle Street) in the Hundred of Wongyarra. The township was the creation of the unsuccessful Mt. Remarkable Mining Company. This was formed in 1846 by F.H. Dutton and A.L. Elder following optimistic reports of a "hill of copper". Dutton and Elder applied for a special survey of 20,000 acres at Mt. Remarkable on May 28th, 1846, at a price of £20,000.

The first directors of the mining company formed were F.H. Dutton, A.L. Elder, J.B. Hughes, Philip Levy, E.L. Montefiore, J.B. Neales and Geo. Hall. When the company was dissolved in July, 1851, the land was divided into 250 sections of 80 acres and two townships were laid out at the northern and southern ends of the special survey. This made a total of three townships laid out by the company, namely Bangor, Port Flinders and Melrose. Of the three, only Melrose, situated at the northern end of the special survey eventuated. Melrose was subdivided by T.F. Nott in 1852.

Pastoralism was firmly established by the late 1840's and despite the failure of mining Melrose by the 1870's had become a business, administration and social centre for the surrounding area. The S.A. Gazetteer describes the town in 1866 as having a local court, 3 hotels, a post office, police station, stores and a population of 250 people.

The earliest specific record of the land on which Keating's Cottage stands is found in a conveyance from the trustees of the Mt. Remarkable Mining Company to Edward Castres Gwynne on 3rd November, 1846,<sup>1</sup> upon trust for the proprietors of the Mt. Remarkable Mining Company. In 1854 the land was transferred from the trustees of the defunct company to William Williams the elder, who may possibly have built a cottage on the land. Nine years later, on 20/4/1855, Williams transferred the land to Samuel White White and Frederick White. Then, in 1857, Alfred Searle became the owner and the property was passed down through a succession of owners. These included Benjamin Challinger (1866) John Langhurst of Melrose, a teamster (1868) and, through the power of sale by a beneficiary of a mortgagor's estate, to Samuel Challinger (1881) and Langhurst (1896). When the last named gentleman died intestate in 1906 the Public Trustee assumed control of the cottage until it was legally conveyed to Paul Joseph Keating, of Melrose, a labourer, on 4/3/1954.

Two generations of the Keating family have lived in the cottage, which to this day retains its earth floors, calico lined walls and ceilings and wood stove in the kitchen. The cottage has been described in Collwell and Finch (1973) as "an immaculate pug and pine cottage in a unique state of preservation". Concessions to practicality include the overlay of corrugated iron on the shingle roof and external walls, and electrical wiring throughout. Carpet and lino has been laid inside over the earth floors. Melrose has a few cottages of pug and pine still standing. While Keating Cottage in particular has been identified by the National Trust and is on the National Estate, the other examples are similar externally.

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1. G.R.O. Memorial Book 7; 190 & Enrolment 19 Book 20 page 23.

Keating Cottage is important historically at a State level because it represents a period between 1850 to 1870 when Melrose was in the process of becoming an established township, and in particular exemplifies a type of early construction which utilized local building materials.

Sources:

Baillieres Gazetteer, 1866

Blackett, Rev. J., Description of Melrose, 1898 - Christ. Wkly & Methodist Journal, Jan. 6, 1899, pp.11-12.

Collwell & Finch, Keating Cottage, Melrose, 1973

S.A. Archives, 1324/15

G.R.O. Records, Memorials 190 Book 7, 264 Book 20, 463 Book 52, 379 Book 70, 257 Book 84, 119 Book 145, 195 Book 215, 46 Book 232.

G.R.O. Search 924

L.T.O. Search

S.A.A.: R.N. 199

S.A.A.: Views of Melrose, photographic collection

N.R.R. "Observer", Oct. 8, 1904, 40d.

N.R.R. "The Bulletin", Mar. 30, 1955, 216

N.R.R. "Chronicle", Dec. 15, 1932, p.42.

Iris Iwanicki

Register Historian

II:JD

7/12/82



6532-10156  
Keating Cottage  
Melrose by  
Collwell & Finch,  
1973

*Collwell & Finch - 1973*

### KEATING COTTAGE, Melrose

Keating Cottage in Melrose near Mount Remarkable in South Australia, has been described as "an immaculate pug and pine cottage in a unique state of preservation."

Erected about 1859 it has stone fireplaces, canvas white-washed ceilings, and is finished with cornices of white-washed rope with walls lined with calico. The original shingle roof has been replaced with iron.

Many such "Australian Colonial Huts" once dotted the South Australian countryside. They were austere when compared with the grand homesteads erected by architects and professional builders but required as much building skill and perhaps more ingenuity, particularly in the use of local materials.

The Kangarilla Historical Research Committee describes the labour involved in erecting a shingle roof. "The shingle cutters of the early days combed the countryside for suitable straight-grained timber. The felled trees were sawn into blocks, each block was split into shingles with a tool called a 'throw.' This tool resembled a wheelwright's drawknife, except that it had but one handle. It was laid on top of the block, driven in by a blow from the back of a hatchet, and the shingle detached by giving the handle of the 'throw' a sharp twist. Each shingle was approximately six inches wide by half an inch thick. They were seasoned in stacks under bough coverings. The shingle roofs were laid upon battens in the same way as tiles or slates, except that nails were used for fastenings."





## Other Cottages

Nearby in this area stand two other interesting early cottages which are still in use. The first of these was built about 1859 and is again of native pine but not framed. The walls are constructed of vertical logs placed side by side with their lower ends set into the ground and adzed at the top into a grooved wall plate. Internally the spaces between the logs are flushed up with pug which protrudes through to the outside wherever a gap permits. Inside, in the bedroom the timber and pug is heavily limewashed and in the living room the timber walls were first sheathed with calico and then limewashed. The ceilings of these cottages were formed of stretched and whitewashed sail-cloth. A whitewashed rope runs round the walls at ceiling level forming an intriguing cornice. Floors are mostly of rammed earth but some areas have large round timber tiles cut from tree trunks set in flush; in most instances the floors are covered with congoleum or carpet.

In the kitchen the round pine rafters support sawn battens upon which rest stringy bark shakes; these timbers have darkened with age and near the fireplace are almost black. Externally the shakes of the roof and most of the wall timbers are now covered with corrugated galvanized iron.

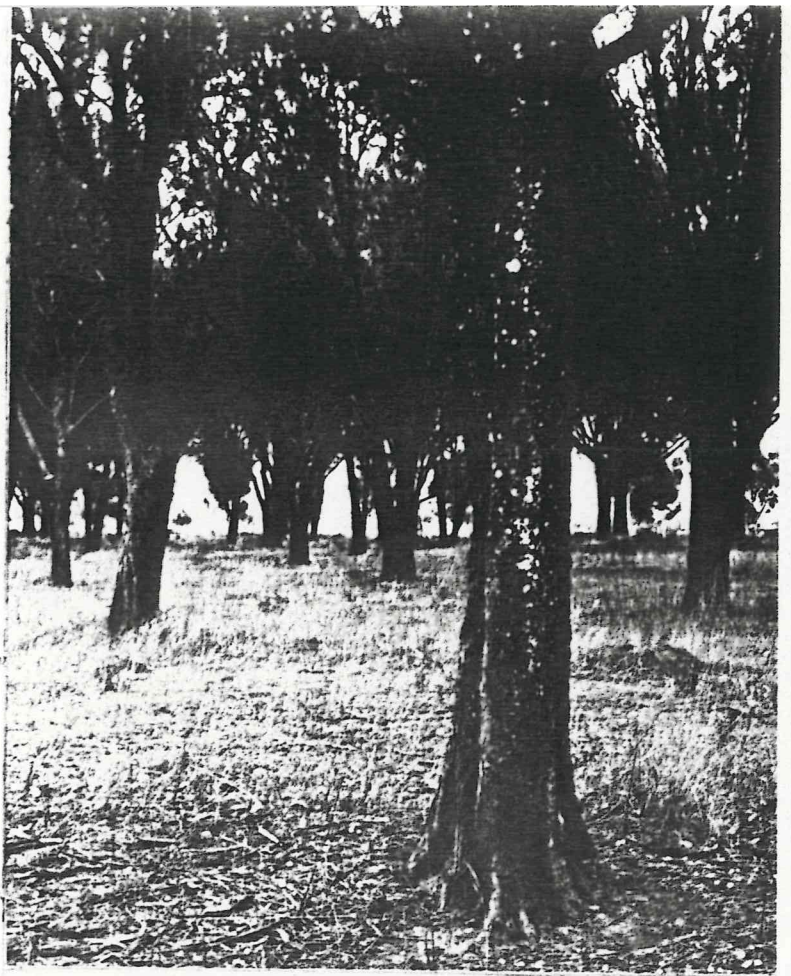
The second cottage is also of closely stacked vertical pine posts plugged with pug. However, internally the walls and ceilings are lined with match-boarding - the ceilings being on the rake right up to the apex of the roof. Whitewashed rope is again used as a cornice. The customary large stone chimneys serve the living room and kitchen. Hardwood planks constitute the floors.

Although detail varies these last two cottages have a basic similarity of design.

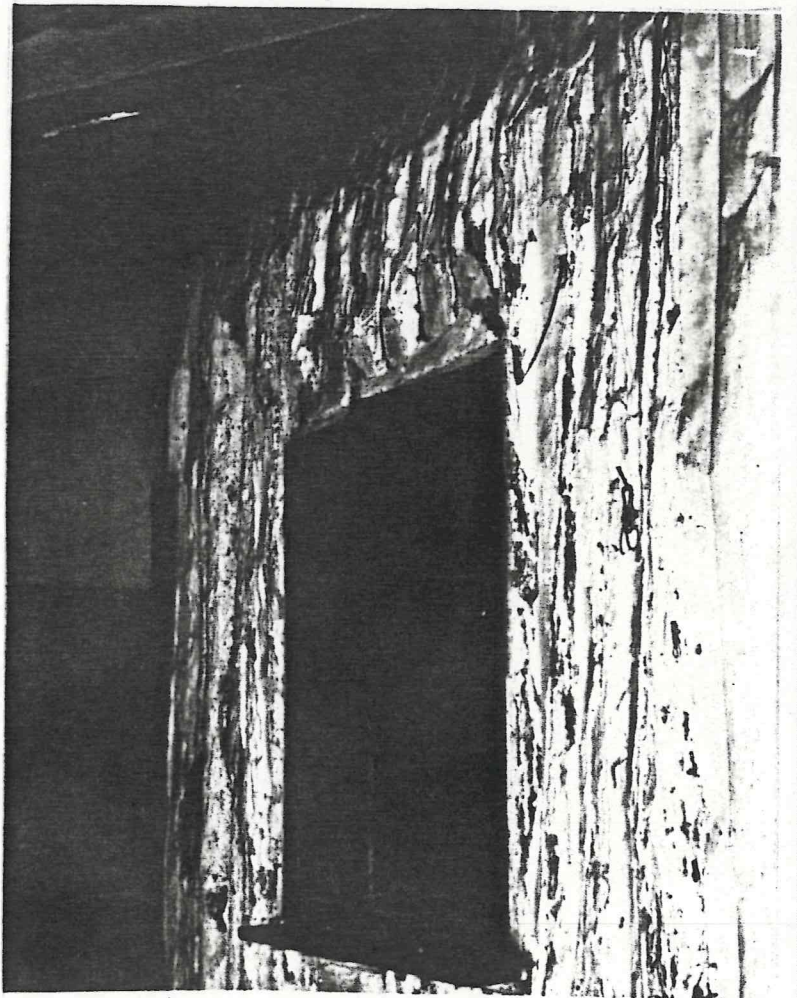
Both cottages are 'classified' by the National Trust of South Australia.

Photographs on the following three pages refer.

A grove  
of  
Native Pine

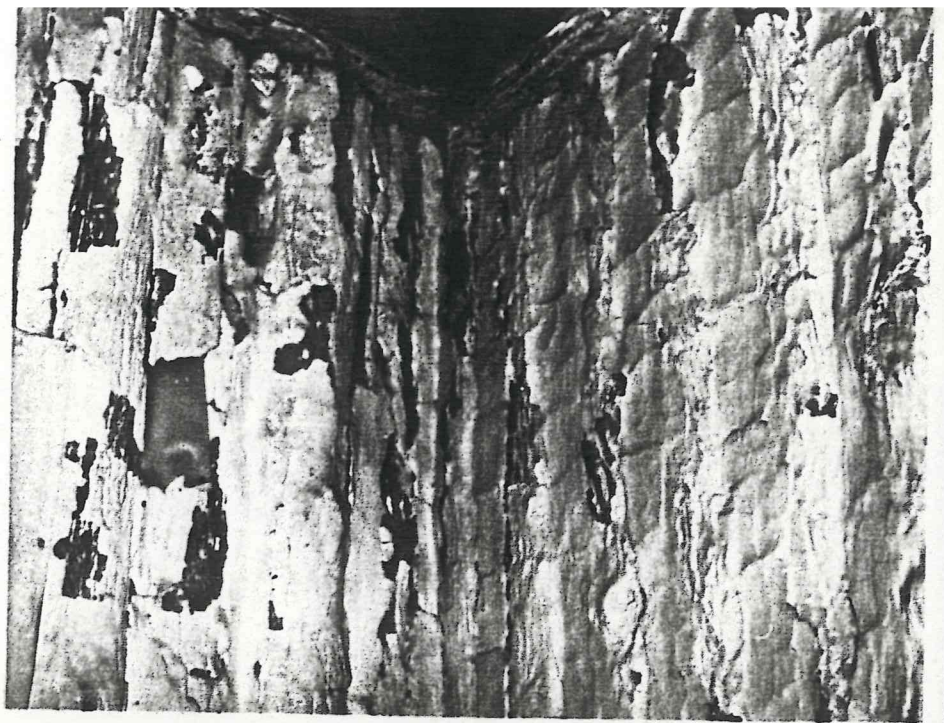


Native Pine  
used for  
'Pine and Daub'  
walling

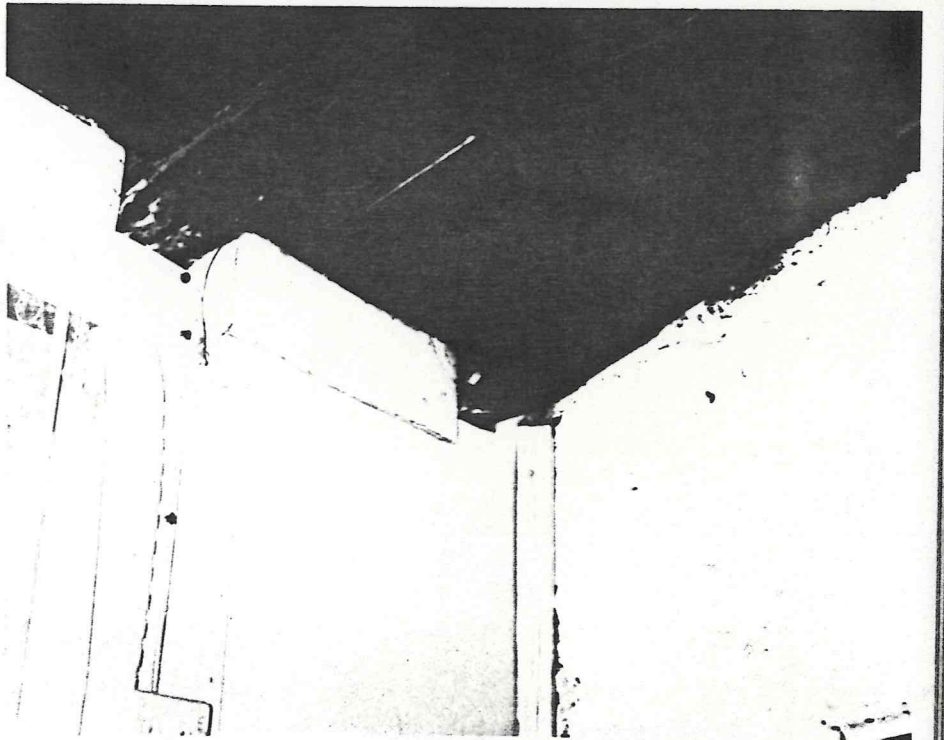




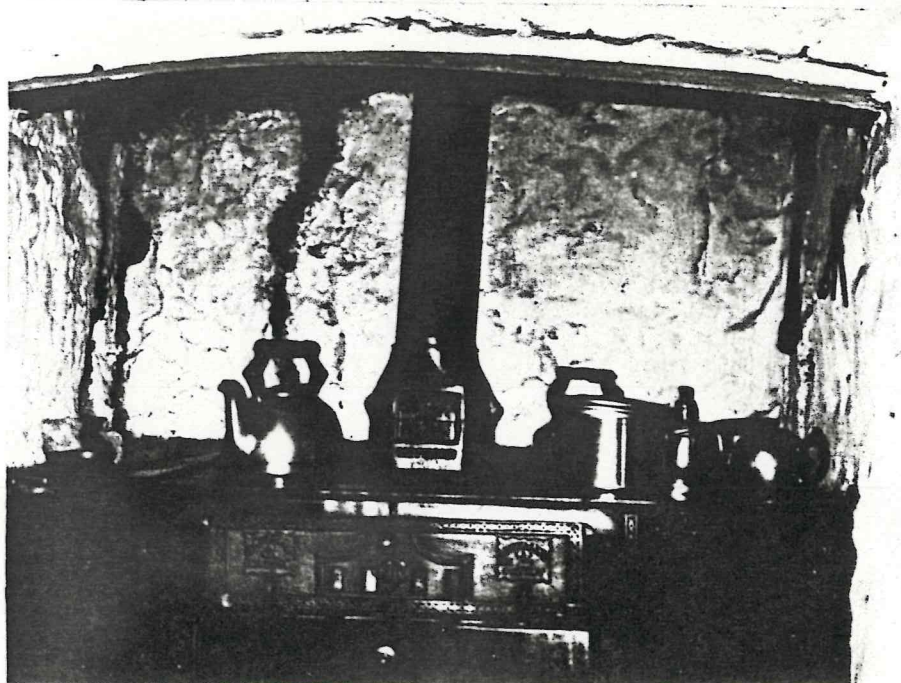
Walls of  
Pine and Daub.  
Ceiling of  
Sail-cloth



Smoke from  
kitchen hearth  
has preserved  
timber shakes  
of the roof



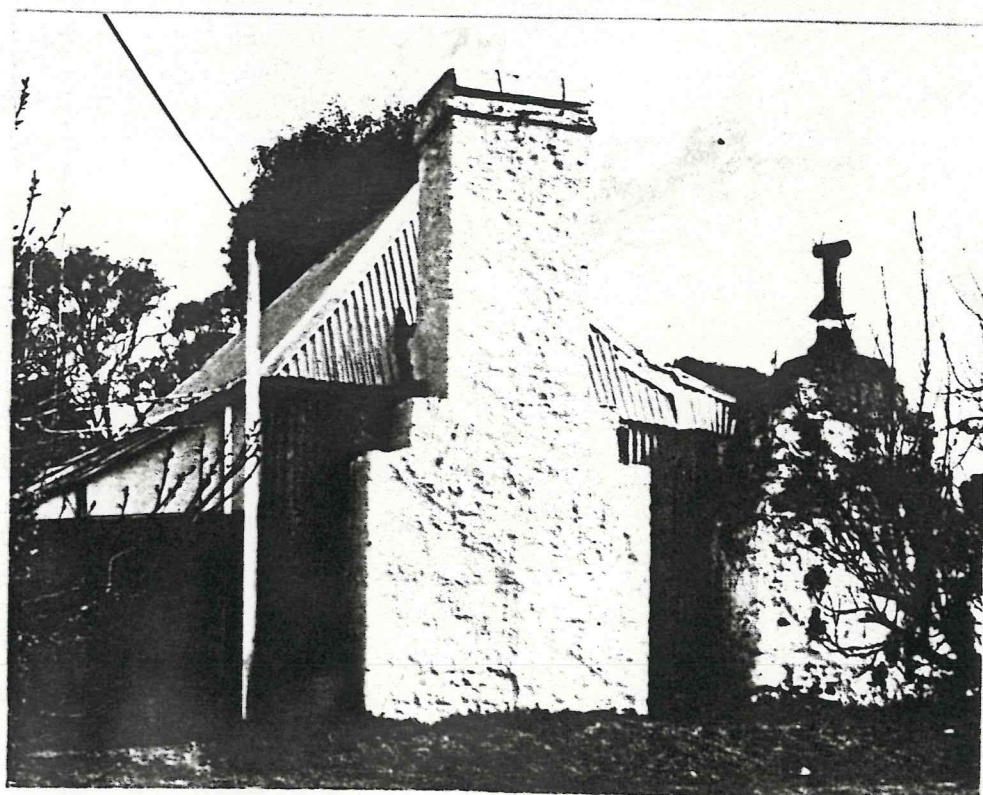
The iron  
wood-stove  
is an  
innovation







Cottage No. 1  
has  
gable-walls  
and  
chimneys  
in stone.



Cottage No. 2  
corrugated-iron  
conceals  
timber shakes  
of roof.



# MELROSE -

- See S.A. Archives 1324/15.
  - The Township of Melrose was laid out by the Mt. Remarkable Mining Co - No record of the survey exists other than the G.R.O. plan which was deposited in 1853.
  - Section 100. H. of Wongyarn was bought by the Mt. Remarkable Mining Co on 3. November 1846.  
The company was dissolved on 31 July 1851. hand was sold to finally wind up the affairs of the company in 1853
  - Hundred of Wongyarn was proclaimed on 7 August 1851.
  - Surveys were made in 1855, 1858, 1863 and 1865.
  - Section 100 was subdivided in 1852.
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HERITAGE UNIT

EVALUATION OF ITEMS FOR THE REGISTER

NAME OF ITEM

"BEATING" COTTAGE

HERITAGE UNIT EVALUATION

DATE

CATEGORISATION

MERITORIOUS STATEMENT

OTHER ISSUES

EVALUATION

The Item is deferred pending

The Item is recommended/not recommended for the Register.

REGISTER SUB-COMMITTEE EVALUATION

DATE

8/4/01

CATEGORISATION

MERITORIOUS STATEMENT

OTHER ISSUES

EVALUATION

The Item is deferred pending

assembling  
of information on Melrose cottages  
within one month.

The Item is recommended/not recommended for the Register

HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

DATE

The Item is recommended for the Register.

The Item is rejected.





FILM NO.  
629

6532-10156  
KEATING COTTAGE

NOV 82







FILM N<sup>o</sup>. 630

GS32-10156  
KEATING COTTAGE  
MEUROSE

NOV 82