



Showcasing SA Heritage Places

Primrose Cottage

7 High Street, Kersbrook

SAHR 14705 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 9 February 1995

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The original section of 'Primrose Cottage' is a well-maintained survivor of an early slab cottage – a once-common construction technique employed by early settlers, who used simple available materials in the form of timber slabs coated inside and out with a thick render.

'Primrose Cottage' was built by William Scott, and is noteworthy as the first dwelling constructed in Kersbrook after the completion of the Town survey in 1858.



Primrose Cottage, 2005

Photo: Terry Best

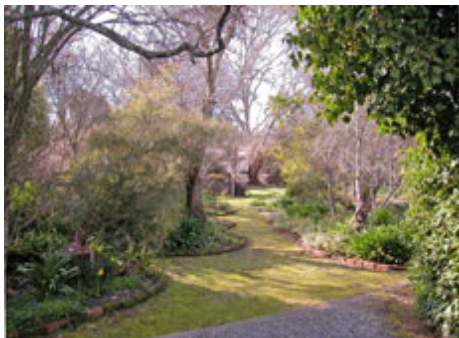
A BRIEF HISTORY:

In 1858 William Carman, who held the licence for the Wheatsheaf Inn, employed a surveyor to subdivide his property in the Chain of Ponds Valley. At that time a small community of semi-permanent huts and cottages had grown up around the inn, including a blacksmith and wheelwright shop and the nearby Wesleyan Chapel.

Carman named the newly surveyed Town 'Maidstone' for a town in Kent, but it subsequently became known as 'Kersbrook', after the nearby farm settled by John Bowden in 1842 and named 'Kersbrook' for the property in Cornwall where he was born.

The new Town was officially surveyed on 25 October 1858 and nine days later (3 November) Carman sold the first two allotments. They were purchased by William Scott, a 25-year-old bachelor who, until that time, had been living at the family home ('Deloraine') where he worked with his father and brothers on the family farm.

William Scott built a one-roomed cottage on his property and lived in it until 1868, when he married Mary Ann Sladdern and established a farm ('Woodlands') north of Kersbrook. Scott died at 'Woodlands' in 1902 and is buried in the Kersbrook Cemetery.



Garden, Primrose Cottage

August 2005

When William left the cottage in 1868, he rented it to James Chamberlain as a long-term tenant. Chamberlain eventually purchased the property in 1880 for £10.10.

Chamberlain lived in the house with his family, and remained there until his death in 1902. He was a gardener/labourer and it is believed that he was responsible for laying out the cottage's fine garden and for completing most of the additions to the dwelling.

The property remained in the Chamberlain family until 1920. It then passed through a succession of owners until 1962, when it was purchased by the Best family.

'PRIMROSE COTTAGE':

'Primrose Cottage' was built as a simple one-roomed dwelling but has been extended over the years with rooms added to the front and the rear. The original dwelling was built of timber slabs (most probably gum), coated with a sand lime render, and had a simple skillion roof and a distinctive roughly-

built chimney. Stone pieces were set into the render of the façade, to give the appearance of stone construction.

At some stage a second room was added at the front and then a timber-framed partition erected in both rooms, thus dividing two rooms into four. This front extension included a symmetrical masonry chimney and a hipped roof. The foundation of the addition was higher than the original building and changed the floor levels, with a step up to the new section. Later the western wall of the new front section was demolished and a timber-framed extension built to enlarge the space. Later again, another timber-framed extension, containing bedroom, laundry and bathroom was added at the rear.



*Rear entrance
August 2005*

