

The Queensland cottage - with its overhanging roof and wide verandahs - is a basic type well suited to the tropical and semi-tropical climate. Its most obvious variation is the roof style, with cottages of very similar floor plans looking quite different due to varied roof shapes. The accompanying photos show several variations and alternative details.

As family needs changed, so did the cottage. Verandahs were enclosed and additions mounted to one or more sides of the original structure. More recently, louvres and timber windows have often been replaced with modern window units and some have been sheathed with vinyl or colourbond metal siding. Even more have decorative lattice screening, or have their charm hidden behind modern vertical louvre window shades.

RIGHT: A well maintained medium high-set cottage with a pyramid type roof, indicating that the main part of the building is square or close to square. Both the front and back verandahs have shed type roofs and the metal window awnings are quite basic. The weatherboard coverage on the side of the house indicates the front verandah was enclosed when the exterior sheathing was first applied, but that the back may have been finished later. The stained (coloured) and frosted glass of the multi-pane sleep-out windows is a common feature of such dwellings. In all cases the largest windows appear to be outward (centre) opening case-type.



RIGHT: The far back corner of the same cottage showing a timber framed enclosure extending from the back verandah. Since there is no obvious chimney or plumbing pipes this is likely a replacement for the original sheet metal kitchen enclosure. The placement in this end of what was essentially a back verandah suggests that the toilet might be located on the other end of this verandah, perhaps in a similar extension.



enland Cottage

RIGHT, TOP: The rear of this enlarged cottage has a verandah that was likely enclosed at the same time as the dwelling was sheathed with weatherboard, and a further extension over the rear door in the centre of the back wall.

The original metal stove enclosure retains its smoke stack but this has probably been blocked to prevent rainwater entering. The windows and louvres have likely been added at different times and the hanging shade would seem to provide little protection from the summer sun. The roof on the main part of the dwelling is a modified pyramid type.



MIDDLE: While the front of this cottage has been sheathed with weatherboard, the back half still has exposed stud walls. Note the sheathing above the window awnings that keep water from getting behind the awning and into the cottage.



BOTTOM: Fiji Sugar Corporation (originally CSR) staff quarters in Lautoka have construction similar to Queensland, and show how closely dwellings were built to the cane railway mainline.

The verandah on the closest cottage has been enclosed with vertical V-joint timber; the far cottage verandah uses horizontal weatherboard, but 'cement board' sheets (often containing asbestos) could also have been used. The window awnings are lightly framed corrugated iron, and on upscale buildings might even be hinged to serve as rudimentary shutters in case of a cyclone.



RIGHT, TOP: CWA (Country Women Association) cottage at The Caves, Queensland. The roof is a modified pyramid, the cottage being longer than it is wide. The back door is offset from the centre and if there was a stove extension, it was removed at some time in the past.

The narrow siding is a 'novelty' board with routed edges so that it sits flat, rather than at a slope. The front door covering is in lieu of a verandah. The cottage would originally have been constructed with timber stumps, probably much lower than the replacements.



MIDDLE: Mill Cottage, with a full width verandah and railing, donated by the Isis Central Sugar Mill to the Childers Historical Complex. The side of the verandah roof was the model for the cottage kit.

The smaller cottage in the distance has a partially enclosed verandah and sleep-out similar to the kit.



RIGHT: Rear view of the Mill Cottage showing the height of the ceiling and the location of the stove extension.

The double curve of the rear window awning is quite different to the side awnings visible in the front view.

