

THE DISMANTLING OF COOK'S COTTAGE

The Dismantling of Cook's Cottage

- Cook's cottage in pictures throughout history
- The selling of the cottage
- A pup - The controversy
- The years of the Cook family in Great Ayton
- Where did the Cook family live?
- From Great Ayton to Melbourne
- From Victoria to Great Ayton

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



J G C 1755 carved on a stone on the cottage.
Understandably believed to mean James and Grace Cook

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



Upon hearing
of the death of
Captain
James Cook,
Lord Mulgrave
commissioned
George Cuiitt
to draw
anywhere
associated
with the great
man.

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



An evocative photo by local Photographer Harold Hood showing the frontage of the cottage before it was shortened.

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



Another front view that highlights the piecemeal construction as the building was extended.

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



The rear of
the cottage
before it was
shortened.
Note the
stone wall.

Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history



A detailed 19th Century view of the rear including the low building that was re-erected in Australia. Note the typical Yorkshire sash windows.

BEFORE: The cottage believed to have been occupied by Captain Cook's parents before it was sold and shipped to Australia in 1934.

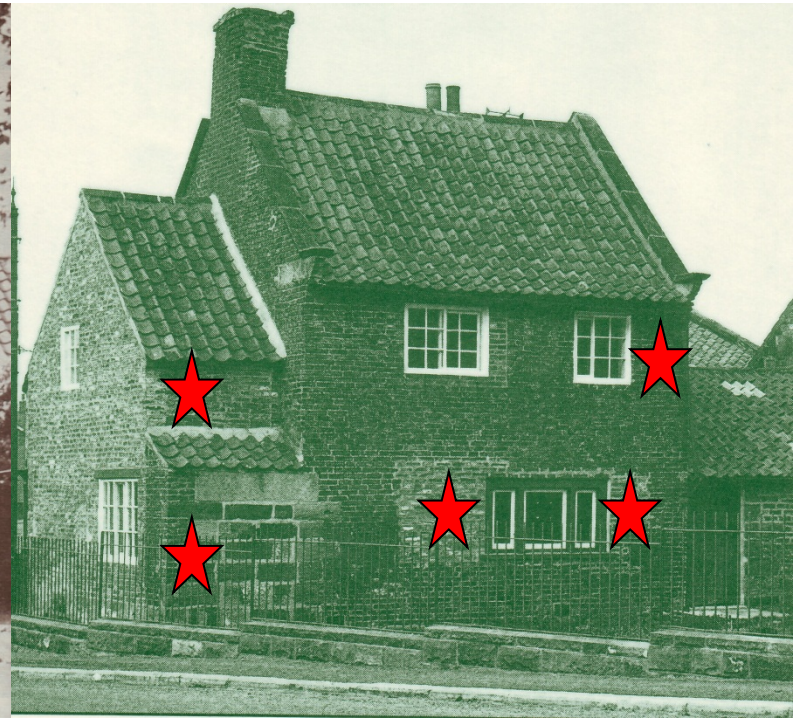
Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history

- The cottage as it really looked before being sold.
- Note the wall and railings which are still there.
- “For some time the house has been vacant, during this period it has been completely renovated, and it is now in a fine state of preservation”



Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history

- Spot the difference.....



Cook's Cottage in pictures throughout history

The cottage in
Fitzroy Gardens,
Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia



The selling of the cottage

- Bidding was started at £1000 without progress
- A Middlesbrough man bid £300. It was withdrawn.
- It was eventually bought for £800
- Later bids rose to £3000

Wednesday, June 28th, 1933

To be OFFERED FOR SALE at the
BUCK HOTEL, GREAT AYTON,
at 7-30 p.m. The FIVE ROOMED

BRICK & STONE BUILT COTTAGE

At the CORNER of EASBY ROAD and
BRIDGE STREET, GREAT AYTON

AND

**RENOWNED AS THE HOME OF
CAPTAIN COOK'S EARLY DAYS**

ALSO

2 PARCELS OF BUILDING LAND

(Approximately 7½ acres) with a frontage of
545 feet to Guisborough Road, Great Ayton.

THE PROPERTY may be inspected by arrangement with
Messrs. DIXON BROS., Great Ayton, Tel. No. 31, or through
Messrs. W. LOWTHER CARRICK & CO., Solicitors,
Stokesley, Yorks.

AUCTIONEER:

ARTHUR THOMPSON, F.A.I.

THE PROPERTY MART,

BOROUGH ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH. Tel. No. 4087.

The selling of the cottage

The Dixon family took ownership of the cottage in 1873.

In 1933 the Dixon brothers decided to sell it but were not willing to let it go abroad. However....

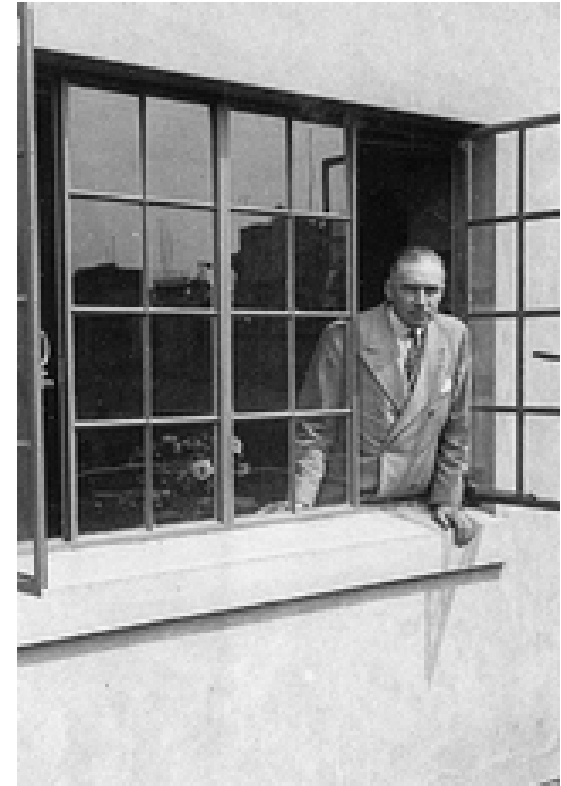
- June 13 Melbourne Herald “Historical cottage to be sold”
- June 24 Sir Russell Grimwade approaches the Premier of Victoria, Sir Stanley Argyle
- June 26 The first of a series of telegrams arrives from Australia
- July 1 Representative Richard Linton, Mr Wright, the Dixon brothers and Mrs Dixon meet at the cottage and agree a sale
- July 2 New Zealand House phone wanting to buy the cottage

The selling of the cottage

Sir Stanley Argyle
Premier of the State
of Victoria, Australia



Sir Russell Grimwade's
father made his money
from business interests
including chemicals and
glassware in Australia



The selling of the cottage



Cook's Cottage

The Government of Victoria (Australia) purchased Captain Cook's house for transfer to Melbourne, Australia, where it will be re-erected for the Victoria Centenary Celebrations and preserved as a monument to the discoverer of Australia.

The House will be allowed to stand for one month before being removed under skilful supervision and during this time will be opened to the public for inspection at a charge of 3d per adult and 1d per child, the proceeds to be divided equally between the North Ormesby Hospital and the North Riding Infirmary of Middlesbrough.

No charge will be made of school children if accompanied by their class teacher.

Richard Linton

Agent General for Victoria

A pup – the controversy

NORTH-EASTERN DAILY GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1934

HAS AUSTRALIA BEEN SOLD A PUP?”

**COOK DID VISIT THE AYTON
COTTAGE BEFORE SAILING**
OFFICIAL
VIEW

**A GREAT AYTON
FEAST DAY**
DESPITE PARISH
COUNCIL DOUBTS

“A STONE PUP”
NEWSPAPER JIBE FROM
AUSTRALIA

A pup – the controversy

NORTH-EASTERN DAILY GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1934

HAS AUSTRALIA BEEN SOLD A PUP?”

- “Opinion in Whitby on the matter is in agreement with the contention of Mr.T.Winn, chairman of the Great Ayton Parish Council, that the Australian Government was sold a “pup.”
- “In a telephone conversation with the Town Clerk of Middlesbrough to-day the Hon. Richard Linton, expressed his conviction that the house was the authentic home of the famous circumnavigator.”

A pup – the controversy

**“A STONE PUP”
NEWSPAPER JIBE FROM
AUSTRALIA**

- A well known Australian journal “Smith’s Weekly” headed:
- “Buyers of Capt. Cook’s Cottage Were Sold a Pup – Joke is on the Victorian Government- House was Built Years After Cook Left Home”

A pup – the controversy



A pup – the controversy

Parish Council Not Present

“But the Ayton Parish Council have announced that they doubt if

Captain Cook ever lived in the cottage at all.

They carried their belief into effect to-day, Mr. E. Johnson, vice-chairman of the town council, told me, by not being represented officially at the ceremony.”



The years of the Cook family in Great Ayton

- 1736 James Cook snr appointed hind (bailiff) at Aireyholme Farm by Thomas Skottowe
- 1745 James Cook jnr aged 17 starts work as a shopboy at William Sanderson's in Staithes
- 1747 James Cook jnr apprenticed to John Walker in Whitby
- 1752 James Cook jnr becomes Mate on the Friendship
- 1755 Mr and Mrs James Cook snr initials carved on cottage also James Cook jnr becomes Able Seaman in Royal Navy

The years of the Cook family in Great Ayton

- 1757 James Cook jnr becomes Master on the Solebay and then the Pembroke
- 1758 James Cook jnr sails to Canada
- 1762 James Cook jnr returns to Britain and marries
- 1763 James Cook jnr's first son born also he sails to Canada again over the next 5 years
- 1764 James Cook jnr's second son born
- 1765 Grace Cook dies

The years of the Cook family in Great Ayton

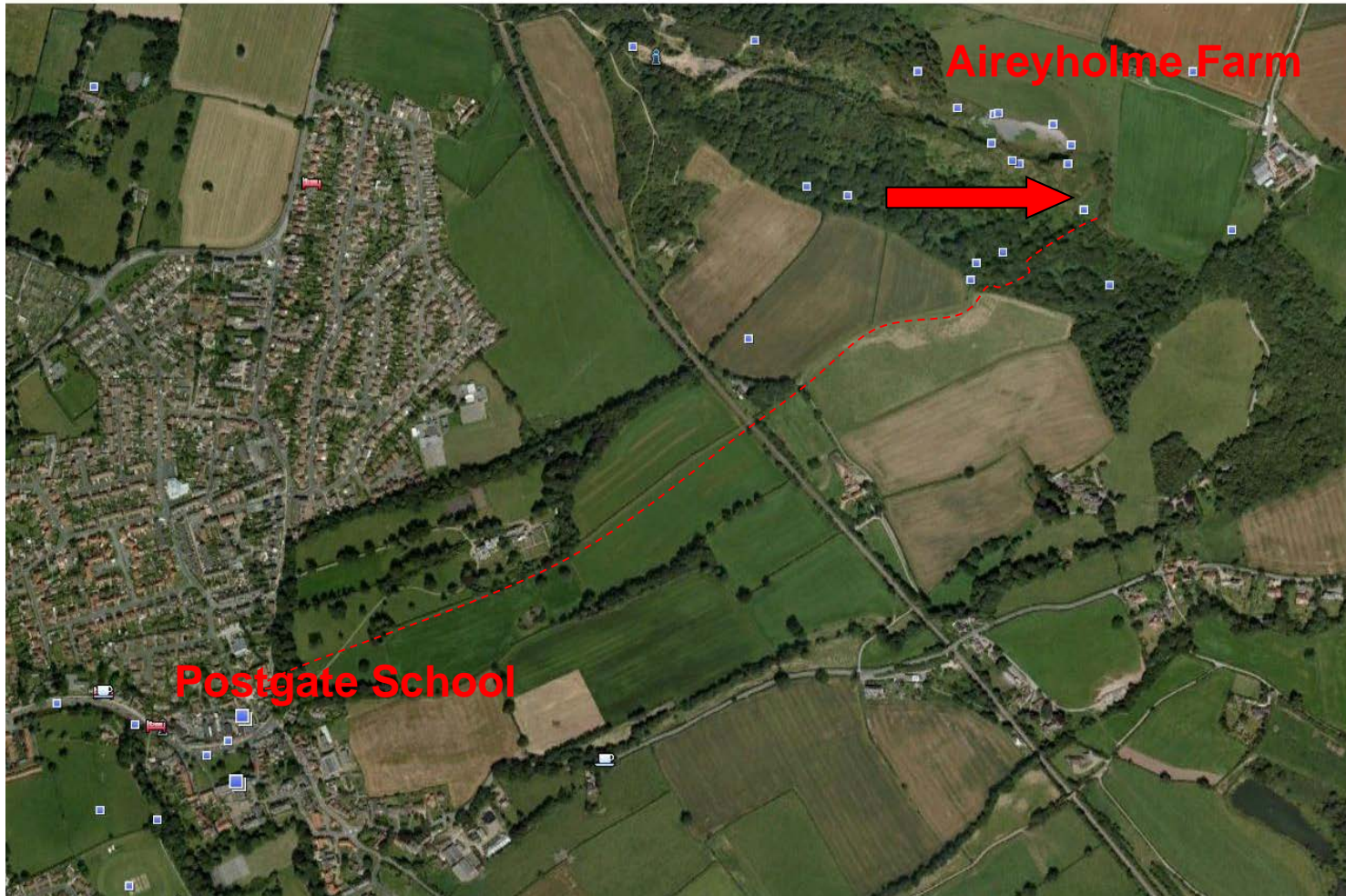
- 1767 James Cook jnr's daughter born
- 1768 James Cook jnr returns to Britain also his third son is born
- 1769 James Cook jnr sets sail for Tahiti
- 1771 Ralph Ward Jackson writes in his diary for Boxing Day "Spent all day in Ayton; this afternoon came Capt James Cook (and his wife) whose father lives in that town"
- 1772 James Cook snr moves to his daughter's in Redcar also James Cook jnr's fourth son born

Where did the Cook family live?

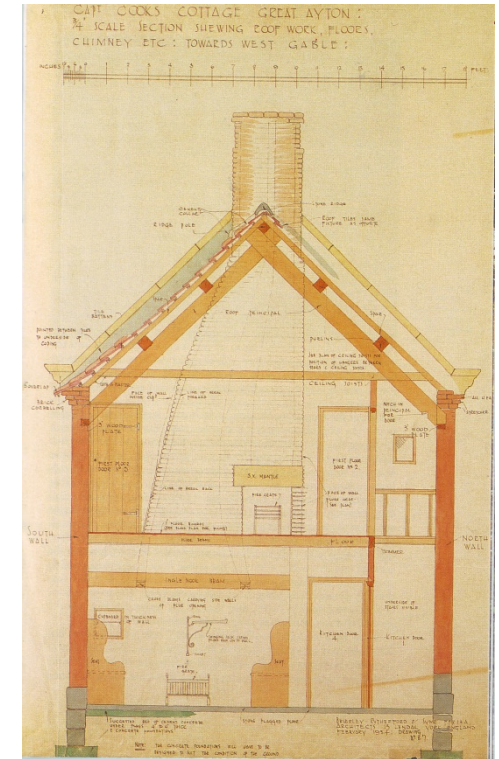
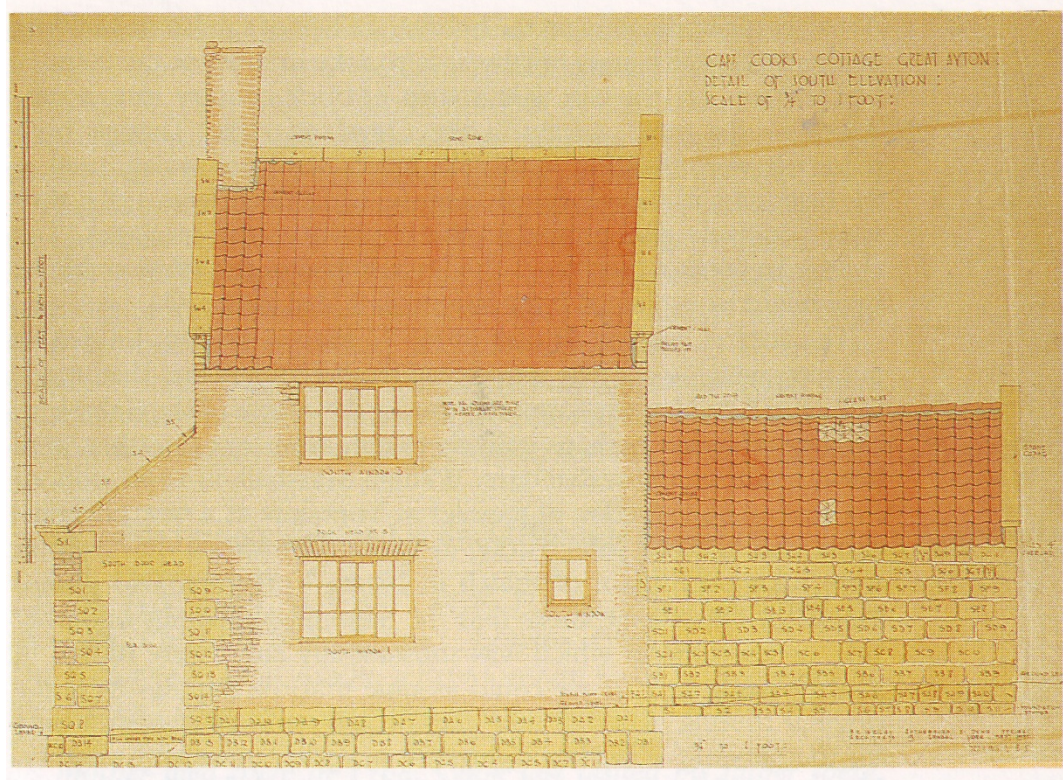
The site of
where the
Cook family
are believed
to have lived
above
Aireyholme
Farm



Where did the Cook family live?

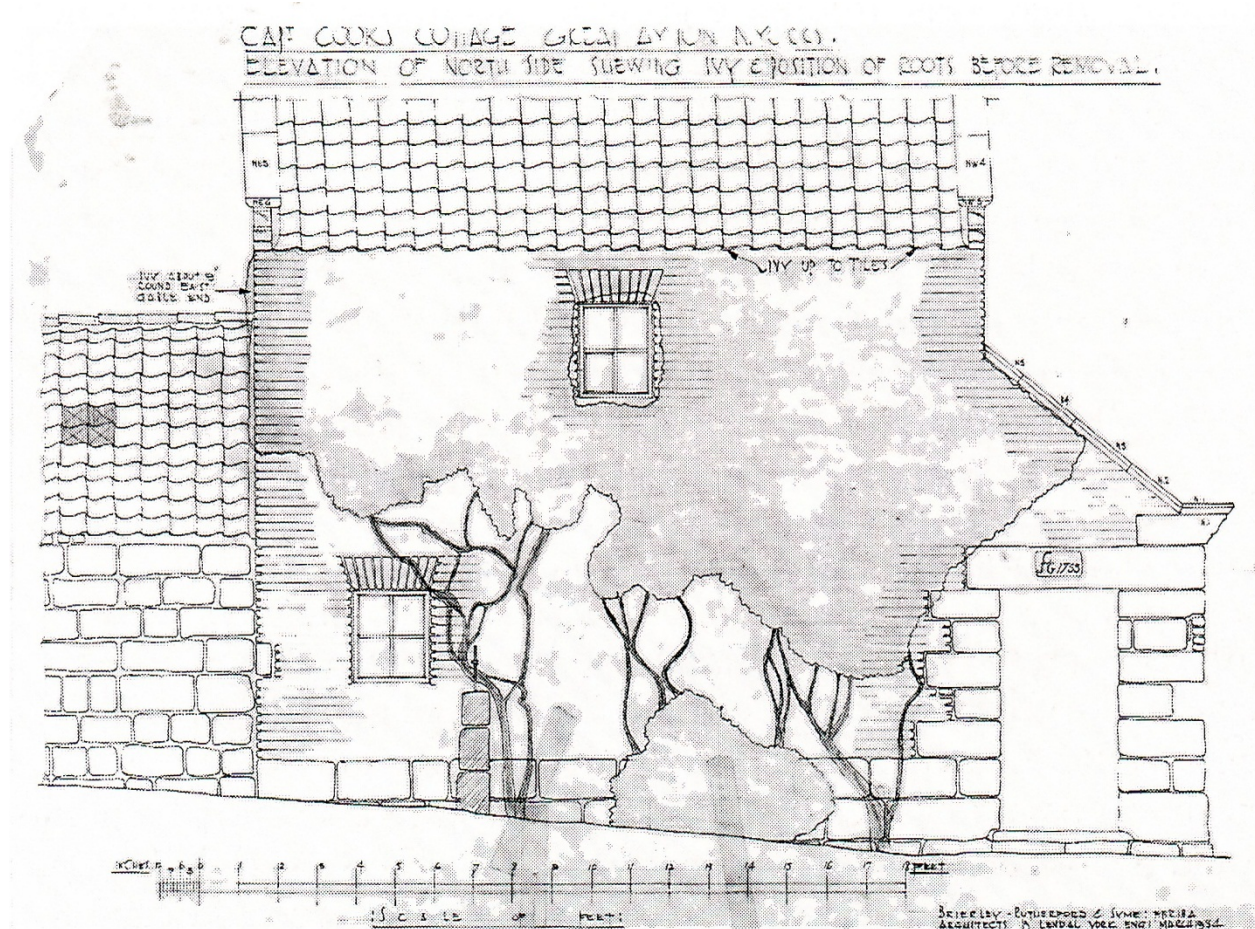


From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Two of architect's drawings of how they believed the original cottage possibly looked. Note the coded stonework to enable the cottage to be rebuilt as accurately as possible.

From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Even the pattern of the ivy was recorded by the architects

From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The dismantling team from Atkinson's of Harrogate appointed by architects Brierley, Rutherford and Syme of Lendal, York began work December 3rd, 1933



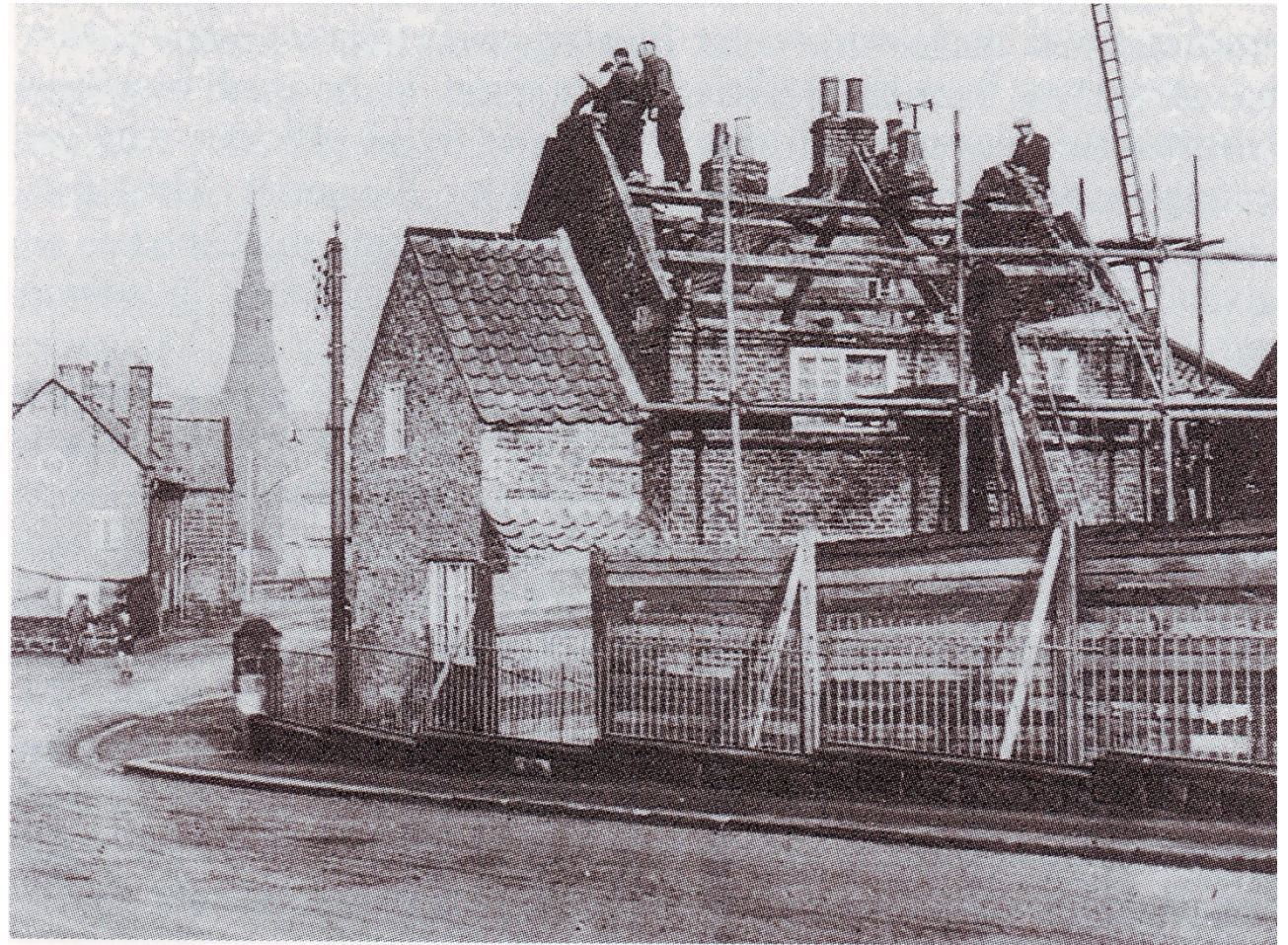
From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The first pantiles
are removed from
the roof



From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The roof
is off and
a start is
made on
the gable
ends



From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Each stone is given an identifying code to enable the cottage to be rebuilt authentically

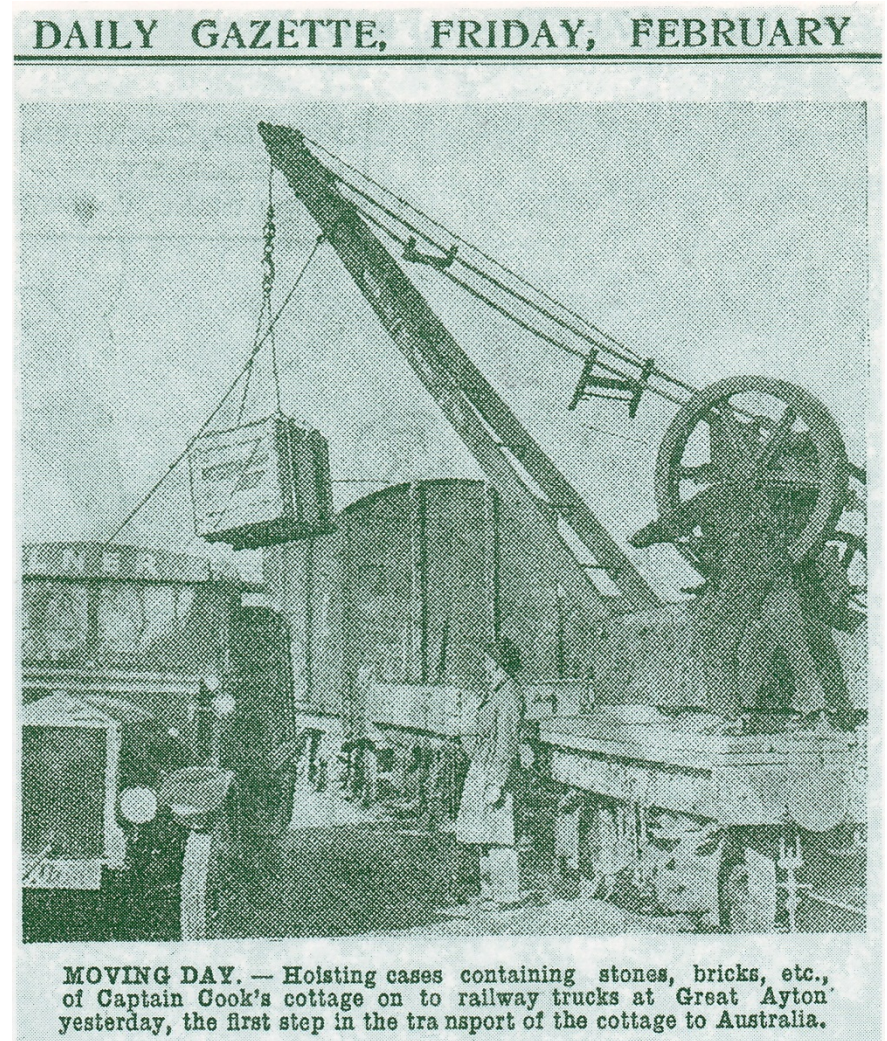
From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The 250+ cases and 40 barrels were transported to the station by LNER lorry. The workmen pose with the Dixon family.

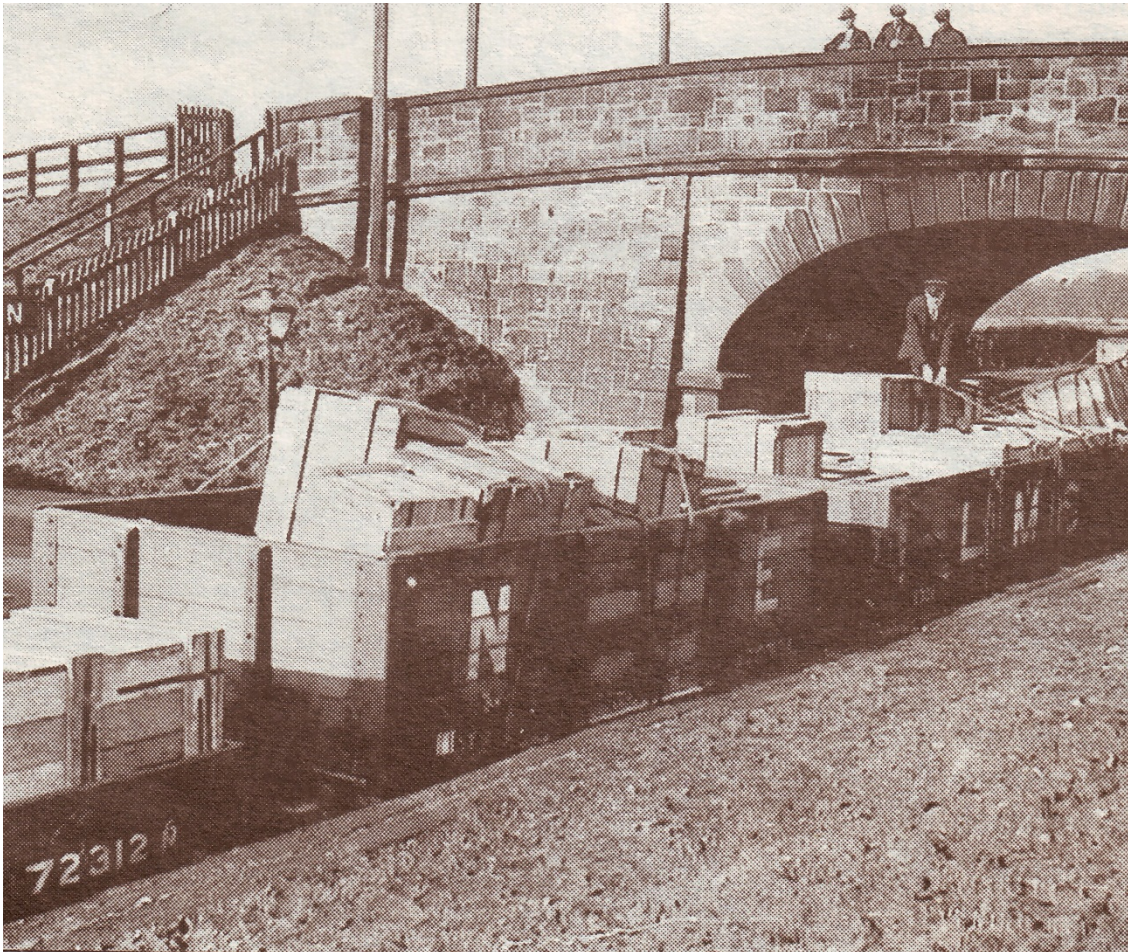


From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The dismantled cottage is hoisted crate by crate on to the wagons at Great Ayton Station.



From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Securing the
cases at
Great Ayton
Station

From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Railway
staff check
the precisely
loaded
wagons at
the station

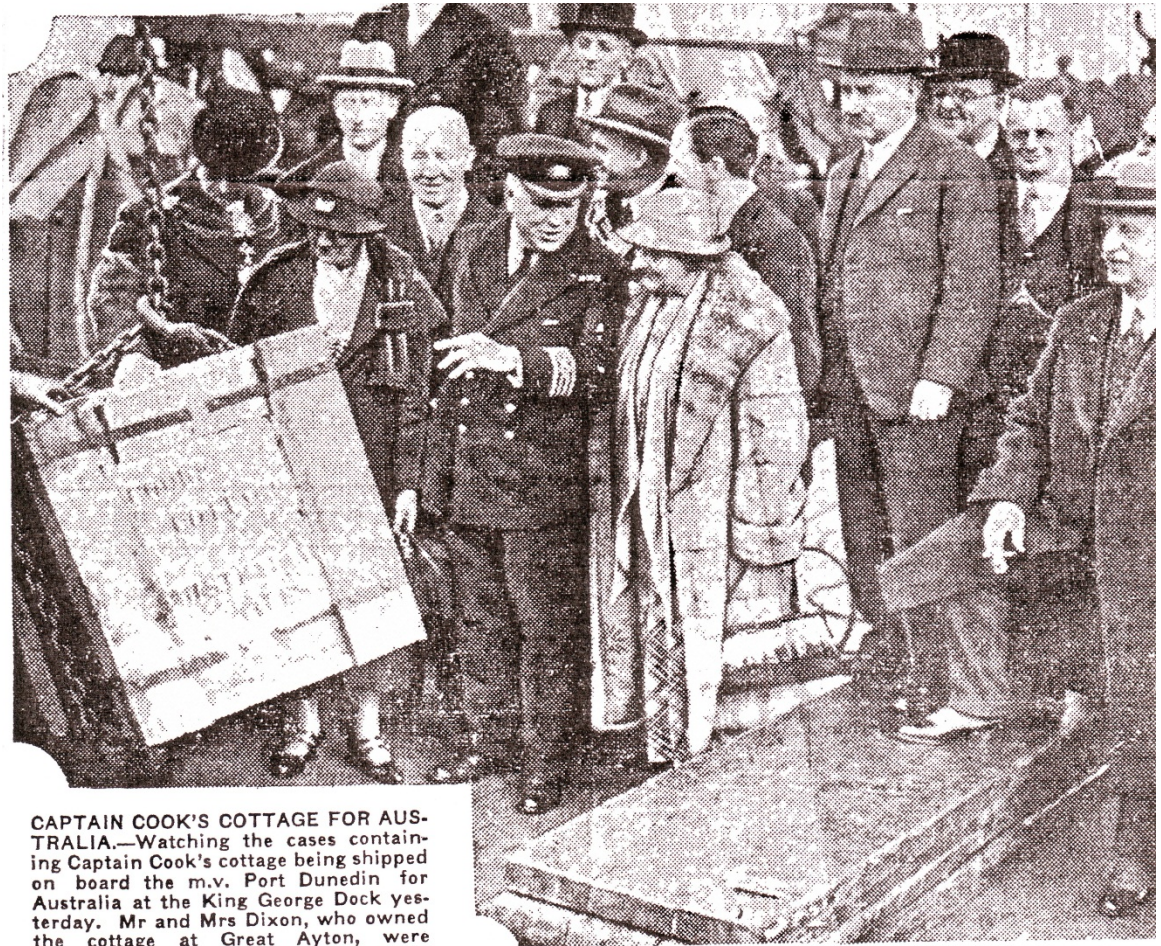
From Great Ayton to Melbourne

- Showing the length of the train at Great Ayton Station.
- *Possibly* the Dixons are to the left



From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The arrival
of the packed
cases on MV
Port Dunedin
at Hull docks



CAPTAIN COOK'S COTTAGE FOR AUSTRALIA.—Watching the cases containing Captain Cook's cottage being shipped on board the m.v. Port Dunedin for Australia at the King George Dock yesterday. Mr and Mrs Dixon, who owned the cottage at Great Ayton, were among the party to see the cases being shipped.—"Mail" photo.

From Great Ayton to Melbourne

- Several shipping companies offered free passage. The first being The Commonwealth and Dominion Line
- The British and Freight Insurance Company insured the cargo on a “no claim – no premium” basis
- The Commonwealth Government discharged the sales tax
- The Melbourne Harbour Trust waived all harbour charges
- The Maine Carrying Company took the crates from the ship to Fitzroy Gardens free of charge
- The Union Stevedoring Company made no charge for their share of the work

From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The Commonwealth and Dominion Line's
Port Dunedin was used to transport the
precious cargo from Hull to Melbourne

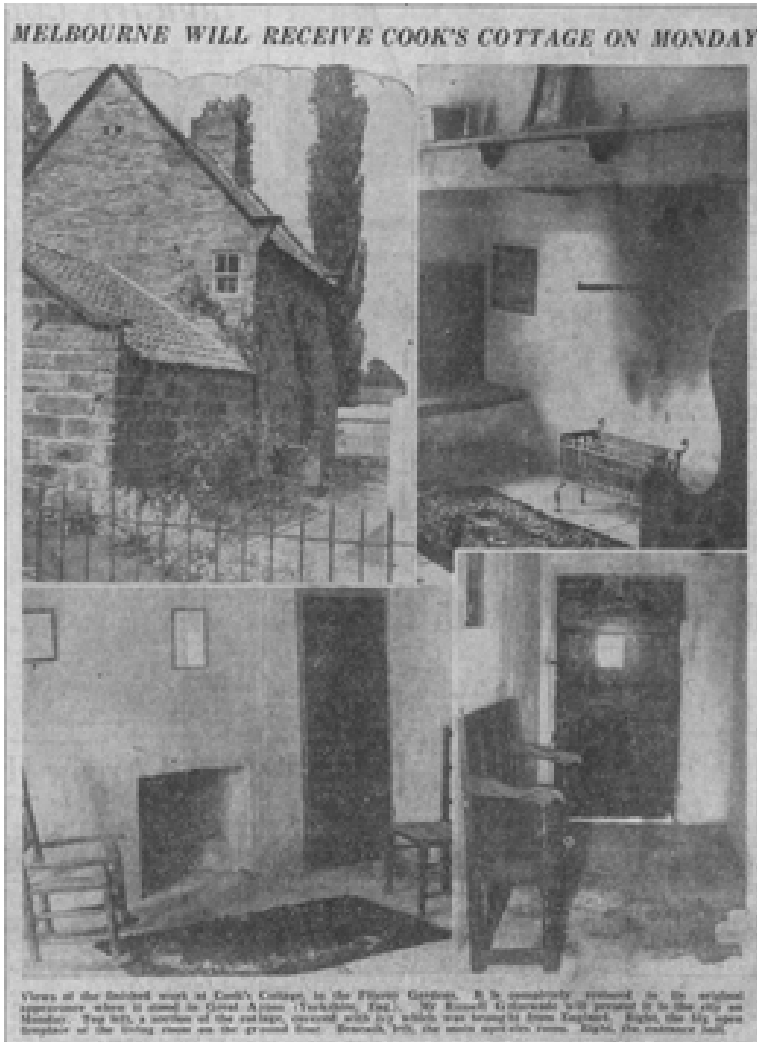


From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The cottage
nears
completion in
Melbourne's
Fitzroy
Gardens



From Great Ayton to Melbourne



Views of the rebuilt
cottage prior to its
opening in Melbourne

From Great Ayton to Melbourne

The cottage was handed to Victoria State on October 15th 1934 – the same day as the obelisk was unveiled in Great Ayton



The opening of the Captain Cook's Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne

From Great Ayton to Melbourne



- Joyce Dixon believed the cottage's original opening was attended by the aviators Charles W. Scott and Campbell Black. Or was it?
- They had just won the Victoria Centenary Air Race £10,000 prize leaving London on October 20th and landing in Melbourne just under 71 hours later.

From Great Ayton to Melbourne



- **Cook's Cottage is the oldest building in Australia**
- **2 million visitors per year to Fitzroy Gardens**

From Victoria to Great Ayton



COOK'S COTTAGE

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No charge will be made for school children if accompanied by their class teachers.

RICHARD LINTON,

Agent General for Victoria

July, 1903

cottage on the west
side was removed to
allow for road widening. In 1933, the remains of the two
cottages were bought by the Victorian State government,
dismantled, and shipped to Melbourne, Australia.

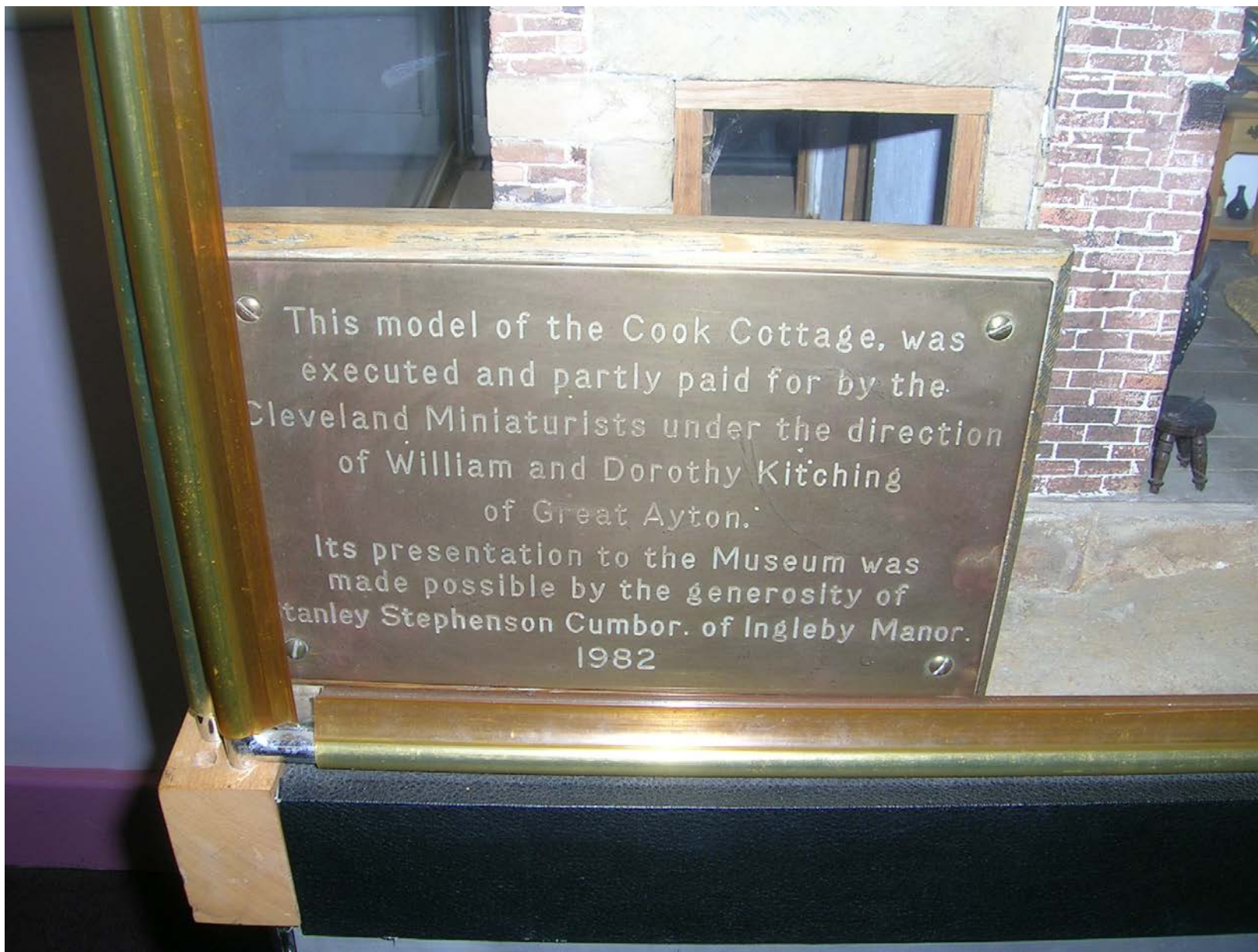


A photograph of the cottage from the 1920s.

The model below is different from the 'Cook's cottage'
in Melbourne because it is based on Cuit's eighteenth
century drawing.







Acknowledgements

- “History under the Hammer” by Joyce Dixon (a NYM National Park publication)
- “Cook’s Cottage” a guide book from Australia
- Numerous newspaper cuttings mostly without their titles and/or dates
- The World Wide Web