

FASCINATING FIND

CUMNOCK COTTAGE



James William Laing, travelling sketcher, originally lawyer's clerk, was born in England in 1811, and travelled around south east Queensland in the 1860s and 70s.

15 of his pencil drawings are known, including ones at Ipswich, Brisbane, Caboolture, Glastonbury and Tiaro.

Most of his drawings had his trademark depiction of chooks, dogs and other farm animals.

The museum holds two of his works, one of Worrum Royal Mail Stage (15 miles south of here) in 1875, and this one, Cumnock Cottage, in 1876. Cumnock Cottage was the Nash Street home of blacksmith, James Cockburn. It was the first house in Gympie to be built from sawn timber.

The Cumnock Cottage drawing is on display in the tank. Worrum can be found in the cottage.