

## AIRLIE, SOUTH YARRA



AIRLIE SOHE 2008



H01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra police officers  
college



H01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra police officers  
college former stable at rear



H01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra tiles at entrance



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra along driveway  
she project 2004



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra along verandah  
she project 2004



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra rear main bldg  
she project 2004



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra south east cnr  
she project 2004



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra stables at rear  
she project 2004



h01619 airlie domain road  
south yarra view from domain  
street she project 2004

**Location**

254-260 DOMAIN ROAD SOUTH YARRA, MELBOURNE CITY

**Municipality**

MELBOURNE CITY

**Level of significance**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1619

**Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO399

**VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

**Amendment to Registration**

May 23, 1998

**Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

**Statement of Significance**

Last updated on -

What is significant?

Airlie was built c. 1873 for David and Elizabeth Ogilvy. David Ogilvy had originally obtained the land in 1846. The architect for the house is unknown, but the builder was believed to have been Joseph Dean. The house is a two storey mansion with ruled ashlar blockwork and rendered walls. It has a hipped slate roof. A coach house and stables complex, designed by William Salway, was built in 1890. Substantial additions were made in 1924, including the front portico, surrounding veranda and the balcony on the first floor. Further alterations were made in 1957 when the building was converted to a police college.

How is it significant?

Airlie is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Airlie is of historical significance as a remnant of the early development south of the Yarra River, and because of the important and interesting uses to which the building has been put. David Ogilvy purchased the land on which Airlie was later built in one of the earliest land sales south of the Yarra, in 1846. While Airlie appears to be Ogilvy's second house on his property, and while the property's curtilage has been substantially reduced over the years, the house remains as a reminder of the large estates that characterised the early development of South Yarra. For its first seventy years Airlie functioned as a residence, owned by a number of prominent Victorians,

including George Chirnside of Werribee. But its subsequent uses are historically most significant. In 1942 and 1943 Airlie was Headquarters for Special Operations Australia, also known as 'Z' Special Unit, which organised coastwatchers and intelligence missions into Japanese occupied territory by allied servicemen. The house reverted to private ownership after the war, but was acquired by the Health Department in 1950 and converted to a Tuberculosis clinic, for which purpose it was used until being given to the Police Department in 1957 for a training college. Airlie has thus played a substantial role in Victoria's wartime, health and police history.

Airlie is of architectural significance as an example of a relatively early South Yarra mansion. Although it has been altered over the years, its character as a substantial mansion house remains, providing an idea of the lifestyle of Melbourne's 19th and early 20th century elites.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1872,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	POLICE COLLEGE, HENRY WATSON HOUSE (1952-1957),
Hermes Number	11123
Property Number	

---

## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

The land on which Airlie is sited was originally obtained as a ten acre grant in 1846 by David Ogilvy. Ogilvy first built a house called Airlie Bank on his land (where Witchwood Close is today) in 1847. Airlie was built c. 1873 for

Ogilvy and his wife, Elizabeth. It had a number of subsequent owners, including George Chirnside (of Werribee), and Robert Chirnside. During WW2 it was used by military intelligence and in the 1950s served as a TB clinic before being converted to a police college in 1957.

Associated People: David and Elizabeth Ogilvy  
George and Robert Chirnside

## **Extent of Registration**

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

Melbourne City

Domain Road, South Yarra

(i) 260: "Airlie" former Police College.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p.3090]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*