

# FERNSHAW



FERNSHAW SOHE 2008



1 fernshaw western beach geelong front view aug1995



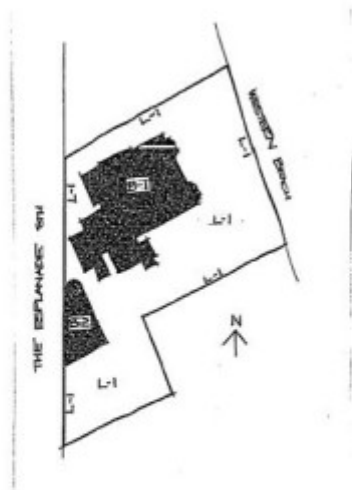
fernshaw western beach geelong rear view aug1995



fernshaw western beach geelong rounded wall of stable publication

REPORT TO MINISTER

PLAN 601035



*gpc*  
3/10/24

h01129 plan

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## Location

4 WESTERN BEACH GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1129

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO137

## VHR Registration

November 30, 1995

## Amendment to Registration

August 11, 2005

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2005

What is significant?

Fernshaw was constructed in 1876, on land overlooking Corio Bay, for successful woolbroker and businessman, Hugh Murray Strachan. It was designed by prolific Geelong architects, Davidson and Henderson, who were responsible for a large number of Western District houses in the 1870s, after establishing their practice in Geelong in 1869.

On his father's death in 1875, Hugh Strachan took over the Geelong wool-broking firm of Strachan and Company. James Strachan arrived from Scotland in 1832 and after settling in Geelong in the 1840s, established a wool-broking and merchant business and erected his house, Lunan (H673) in 1849, also on Corio Bay. The merged company of Strachan, Murray, Shannon and Co. was established by Hugh Strachan in 1875 and, over a number of years, this company handled a large percentage of the wool auctioned at Geelong.

A year after his father's death, Strachan commissioned the well established Scottish architects, Davidson and Henderson, to design Fernshaw, on a site which had previously contained an ice works. Located on the bay, this location became a prestigious residential area from the 1870s.

The property includes a two storey house, picturesque Gothic in character, and a coach house/stables building; both constructed in brick and roofed in slate. The symmetrical front facade of the house contains a central entrance porch, and balcony with cast iron verandah above. This is set between two projecting gabled wings with quoined corners and polygonal freestone bays at ground floor level. Elaborate quoined chimneys add to the picturesque nature of the composition, as do Gothic motifs, which include trefoils and pointed window heads externally, and pointed arches and Gothic cornice motifs internally. The single storey coach house/stables building has a curved bay and roof at one end, and retains cast iron guttering with lion head brackets.

How is it significant?

Fernshaw, Geelong is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Fernshaw is of architectural significance as an important and intact example of the work of prolific Geelong architects, Davidson and Henderson. This partnership produced more than sixty major works, particularly for leading Western District pastoralists and Geelong businessmen, before dissolving eight years later. Fernshaw incorporates many features typical of their work, such as window bays, quatrefoil patterns, lion head motifs and decorative ironwork, resulting in an identifiable example of their work.

Fernshaw is of architectural significance for its coach house/stables building which incorporates an unusual curved bay, adopted in response to the angular nature at the rear of the site.

Fernshaw is of historical significance for its association with prominent Geelong wool broker and businessman, Hugh M. Strachan. Geelong was the premier port in Victoria for the export of wool from the Western District, and the Strachan family played a significant role in this important industry.

## 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](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents

damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works** : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates            1876,  
Architect/Designer           Davidson & Henderson,  
Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,  
Hermes Number                1926  
Property Number

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## History

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**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2005. Sources were as follows:**

G. Butler and Assoc. *Geelong City Urban Conservation Study*.

D. Rowe. *Architecture of Geelong 1860-1900*. 1991

A. Willingham. *Geelong Region. Historic Buildings and Objects Study*. 1986

Information on file no. 601035

## Extent of Registration

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1129 in the category described as a Heritage place is now described as:

Fernshaw, 4 Western Beach and 1 The Esplanade, South Geelong, City of Greater Geelong.

### EXTENT:

1. All the buildings known as Fernshaw, comprising the main house marked B1 and the former stables/coach house marked B2, on Plan No. 601035 endorsed by the Chair, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Executive Director.
2. Part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 8111 Folio 052, marked L1 on Plan No. 601035 endorsed by the Chair, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Executive Director.

Dated 11 August 2005

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 32 11 August 2005 1790]

*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/>*