
Werribee Park Mansion



B1475 Werribee Park
Mansion

Location

K Road, WERRIBEE VIC 3030 - Property No B1475

Municipality

WYNDHAM CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1613

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 14, 2007

One of Australia's grandest and most architecturally sophisticated mansions, notable especially for fine freestone exterior; its largely surviving and partly restored interiors and furnishings; its extensive garden, lake and grotto; its gatehouse and the partially surviving avenue of trees along the line of the driveway to the town of Werribee; the surviving former homestead, ha-ha, and outbuildings; the woolshed and other more distant structures; the old ford and the general relationship of the river to the property and the successive homestead sites.

The mansion, built in 1874-7, is an unusually symmetrical pyramidal composition in a Roman Renaissance Revival style with some scholarly Palladian details and exquisite ornamental carving, and is the only major freestone house in Victoria. The architect is claimed to have been London-born James Henry Fox, quantity and measuring surveyor to the Victorian Government and architect also of 'Chatsworth House' in Hopkins Hill. . Deleterious additions made in the twentieth century, particularly the large wing to the west, are excluded from the Classification. The open setting of the property is of significance and the views from the old homestead to the south-east and south-west are critical to it.

The mansion was built for brothers, Andrew and Thomas Chirside - Scottish-born pastoralists and as such is a unique example of the material existence of the very wealthy in 19th century Victoria. The Chirside family have significance in the Victoria for their many pastoral ventures. The grounds are also of historical significance, having been laid out by W.R. Guilfoyle, Curator of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

Classified: 28/01/1997

See also Garden file: G13045

Hermes Number 66851

Property Number

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/>