

PLACE NAME "Fairbrae" **LEVEL:** B
ADDRESS 89 Prospect Road
AREA 8 **DATE/PERSON** 26.5/RP **NEG:** 5.25 & 6.19



DATES Construction: c1883
USE Present Use: Residential
 Original Use: Stables(?)
 Alterations?:

FORM	STYLE
Detached Single storey 3 Bay	Later Victorian

DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)
ROOF I Corr. Iron **WALLS** I Timber * **ROOF FORM** I Chimneys
 A Brick (painted) ** Gable decoration

VERANDAH	FENESTRATION	FINISHES
	I Doors * Windows & bay	

INTERIOR	GARDEN & SETTING	OTHER COMMENTS

CONDITION & INTEGRITY	THREATS
Condition: Good Integrity: Minor modif	

DESCRIPTION

There is a gable roof parallel and aligned to the street, terminating in two gable pavilions facing. The elevation on the street line is brick (now painted: is this later?) but the house is otherwise timber, in wide (250mm) cladding, ship-lapped boards. There is a canted bay on the left-hand (east) elevation with a dentillated Classical cornice and Doric pilasters as mullions. The chimneys have Classical mouldings and gables and fascias have fine Gothic fretwork. The motif is a trefoil-inscribed Gothic arch separated by small oculii, with a trefoil at the ridge.

HISTORY

"Fairbrae" was constructed c1883 for William Hitchens, accountant. In that year it was described simply as "private residence", NAV seventy eight pounds³⁸⁵. By 1887 the house was identified as a wooden and brick building³⁸⁶. The name "Fairbrae" was recorded in 1914 for William Hitchen's Prospect Road house, a brick and wooden dwelling, NAV 58 pounds³⁸⁷. Hitchen's executors owned the property in 1923 when it was let to James Reid, grazier³⁸⁸. However, by 1925 Helen Purnell was its owner/occupier³⁸⁹.

SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from c1883 when it was built for William Hutchins, accountant, this house has local historical significance as an example of a fine private residence built for a prosperous local businessman. Hutchin's executors still owned the property in the 1920s. Architecturally it is unique to the region. Apparently anachronistic when it was built, it has many characteristics (Gothic barges and fascia, the Neo-Classical canted bay, wide lining boards and siding on the street line) of an earlier period. However, the details are of great interest in themselves, particularly the Gothic barges and fascia and the Neo-Classical canted bay. The changes in wall materials and the alignment on the street boundary are other puzzling characteristics of great interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Area 8
 Place

385. Newtown rate book 1883-84, North Ward, No 240.

386. Ibid 1887-88 No 284.

387. Ibid 1914-15 No 439.

388. Ibid 1923 No 474.

389. Ibid 1925 No 522.