

PLACE NAME: 'PIRRA' HOMESTEAD (FORMERLY WINDERMERE AND SERENDIP)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SHIRE OF CORIO

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

Original Homestead-Colonial Vernacular
 STYLE OR PERIOD: 1880, 2 storey extensions - Victorian eclectic.

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Alexander Davidson & Co.
 Reference: (2 storey construction)
 Geelong Advertiser, 26th August, 1880.

BUILDER:
 Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES
 Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 26th August, 1880
 Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1880 2 storey construction
 Reference: Original homestead unknown.

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

1881, Additions designed by Architects Alex. Davidson & Co.

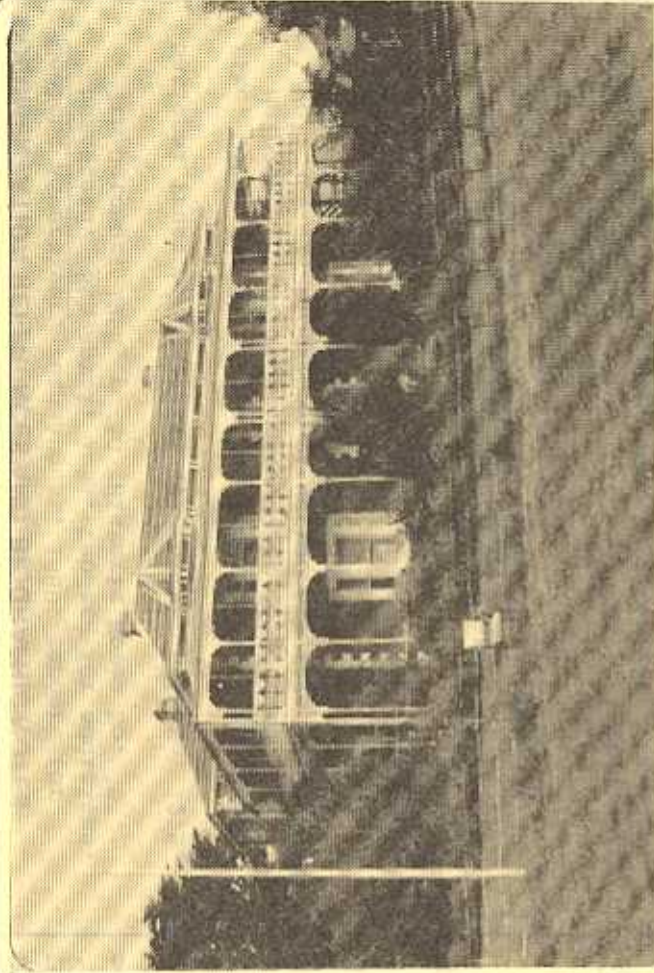
ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

(1816-1895) Armytage Family (Single storey construction)

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

Sir George Fairbairn (Jnr) born 1855 M.L.A.
 1901 - sold to State Government for closer settlement
 1904 - Department of Health, used as sanatorium till 1930

OTHER NOTES George Fairbairn Snr. married Virginia Charlotte Armytage, daughter of George Armytage.



NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate
 Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No.
 File No.
 National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/Designated File No. ...2.2.5.....
 Geelong Regional Commission Register No.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME 'Pirra' Homestead
 ADDRESS 110 Windermere Road,
 Lara, 3212.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Corio.
 TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE _____

PRESENT USE
 PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE P.T.O.
 ADDRESS
 TELEPHONE

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SHIRE OF CORIO**

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Geelong Advertiser, 26th August, 1880, tenders for homestead. 8th April, 1881, tenders for additions. 7th October, 1958, p. 10 "Historic Homes No. 30".
National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 1275.
Pike, Douglas (Ed) Australian Dictionary of Biography, Melbourne University Press, 1972, 6 Volumes.
Vol. 1 p. 27 biography of George Armytage (1795-1862).
Vol. 3 p. 51, 52 biography of Charles Henry and Frederick William Armytage.
Vol. 4, p. 147, 148. biography of George Fairbairn (1816-1895).

Smith, James (Ed) The Cyclopedia of Victoria, Cyclopedia Co., Melbourne, 1903. Vol. 3. p. 106. biography of George Fairbairn Jnr. M.L.A.

Wynd, Ian, 'So Fine a Country, A History of Corio Shire', Draft Copy, to be published in late 1980.

OWNERS:

- 1) Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands, P.O. Box 103, GEELONG. 3220.
- 2) Living Art Enterprises, "Pirra", Windermere Road, LARA. 3212.
- 3) N.J.D'Ombra, "Pirra", Windermere Road, LARA. 3212 (Occupier)

CITATION

The extensive brick and stone homestead 'Pirra' (formerly 'Serendip' and 'Windermere') was constructed firstly as a modest colonial vernacular style house of unknown date for pastoralist Geo. Fairbairn. In 1880 Alexander Davidson & Co. architects, designed the two storey brick mansion house addition in an eclectic Victorian style. 'Pirra' is one of the most distinctive of Alexander Davidson's many Western District homestead designs executed in the years 1865-90. The homestead was the seat of noted pastoralist Geo. Fairbairn for more than 50 years and a centre of social activity in the district in the late nineteenth century.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

- LOCAL REGIONAL STATE NATIONAL WORLD

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS

INTEGRITY

- HIGH LOW ALTERED DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register
Historic Buildings Council Register

DOCUMENTATION - Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St., North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE **DATE**