HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet 140

PLACE NAME: MT. ROTHWELL HOMESTEAD

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SHIRE OF CORIO

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Victorian Italianate

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: P. Colquhoun
Reference:
Ronald, H.B., Wool Past the Winning Post, p. 63

BUILDER:
Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 26 October 1872
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1872-73
Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)
Robert Chirnside (1830-1902)

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS
The property is still owned and occupied by the descendants of Robert Chirnside.

OTHER NOTES Robert Chirnside was the first president of the Shire of Wyndham in 1864 and a brother of Thomas and Andrew Chirnside of "Werribee Park".



NEGATIVE FILE:

☐ Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate

☐ Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. .....
File No .....

☒ National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Recorded
File No. 1726

☒ Geelong Regional Commission Register No. 295

IDENTIFICATION DATA
PLACE NAME Mt. Rothwell Homestead
ADDRESS 985 Little River Ripley Road,
Little River 3211

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Corio
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Homestead
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE R.B.,V., S. & A.E. Chirnside
ADDRESS Mt. Rothwell
Little River 3211
TELEPHONE (053) 69 4224

PLACE NAME MT. ROTHWELL HOMESTEAD

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SHIRE OF CORIO

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Ronald, Heather B., Wool Past the Winning Post
Landvale Enterprises, Melbourne,, 1978, pp. 60-66

Smith, James, The Cyclopedia of Victoria, 3 volumes,
The Cyclopedia Co., Melbourne, 1903. Vol. 2, pp. 465-466
Biography of Robert Chirnside, J.P.

Geelong Advertiser, 26 October, 1872, Tender Notice submitted
by Dalgety, Ibbotson & Co., Geelong.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 1726

Wynd, Ian, So Fine a Country : A History of Corio Shire,
Draft Copy, to be published in late 1980, p. 238.

In 1879-81, Robert and Margaret Chirnside visited England and returned with furniture, etc., for Mt. Rothwell. Much of the interior of Mt. Rothwell is intact in almost original condition, including hand painted ceiling decoration, furnishings and floor coverings.

CITATION

Mt. Rothwell Homestead, a single storey Victorian Italianate residence, built of regular coursed squared basalt with a slate roof and cast iron verandah for Robert Chirnside, pastoralist, and brother of the famous Chirnside partners, Andrew and Thomas of "Werribee Park". The homestead, magnificently sited on the north slopes of Station Park, (You Yangs ranges) was designed by P. Colquhoun , architect, and erected in 1872-73. The property is an important link in the Chirnside pastoral empire and a splendid example of the Italinate mode in Victoria. The homestead is virtually intact with notable interiors and decorated plasterwork.

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
Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National Estate
Historic Buildings Council Register

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

SIGNATURE.....DATE.....