

PLACE NAME: 'WIMMERA' (Formerly 'Tamar')

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG WEST

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Italianate

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Backhouse & Reynolds,  
Reference: architects, Geelong.

Geelong Advertiser, 22nd June, 1858

## BUILDER:

Reference:

## PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 22nd June, 1858

Reference: 7th February, 1860

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1858/60

Reference:

## ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

## SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The timber verandah on the east facade was badly damaged by a falling chimney and was completely removed. The interior of Wimmera has been recently restored.

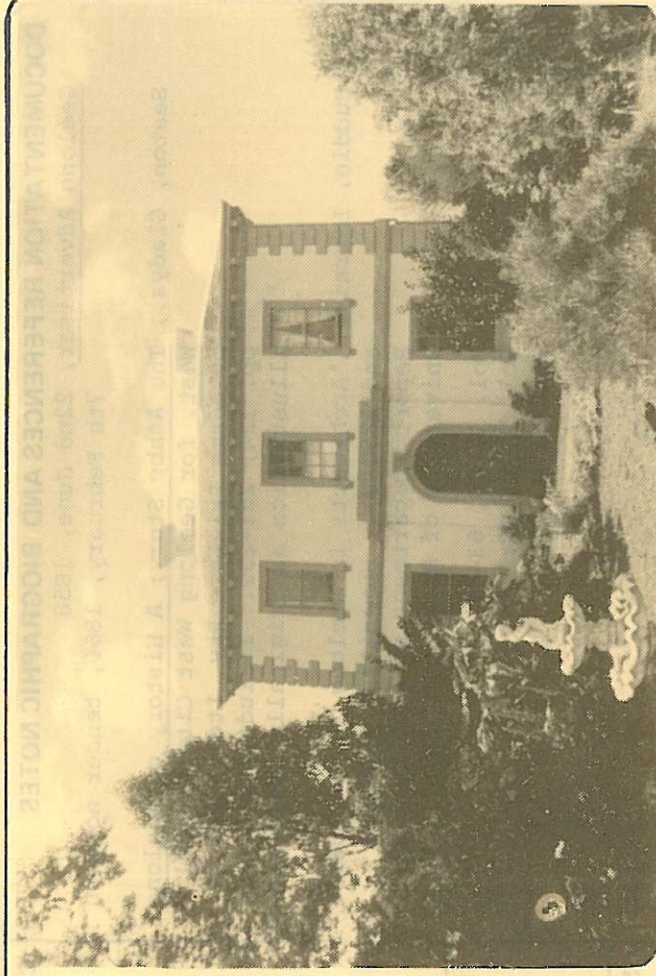
## ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

John Honeychurch Down

## SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

William H. Lloyd (1883-1913) renamed it 'Wimmera'.  
Education Department (1950 - 1973)

## OTHER NOTES



## NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission  
Register of National EstateHistoric Buildings Preservation Council  
Register No. ....  
File No. ....National Trust of Aust. (Vic)  
Classified File No. 1189Geelong Regional Commission  
Register No. 255

## IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME 'Wimmera' (formerly 'Tamar')

ADDRESS 356 Aberdeen Street,  
Geelong West, 3218.LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong West  
TITLE INFORMATION

## MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Residence

PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE D.A. &amp; A.M. Young,

ADDRESS 356 Aberdeen Street,  
Geelong West, 3218. TELEPHONE



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong West

# DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Geelong Advertiser, 22nd June, 1858

7th February, 1860, tender notices

Seaton, Gladys., The Ashby Story; A History of Geelong West. for Geelong West City Council by Adams Printers Pty. Ltd., 1979, pp. 124, 251-252. Including illustration as originally constructed.

Huddle, Lorraine, 'Architects in Geelong in the 1840's and 1850's'. Humanities Research Report, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1979, 3 Vols.

Vol. 1, pp. 63-79;

Vol. 2, p. 40;

Vol. 3, p. 136.

## CITATION

'Wimmera', a two storey stuccoed brick residence originally known as 'Tamar', was erected in 1858-60 for John Honeychurch Down.

'Wimmera House,' so named by William H. Lloyd, a former Wimmera district miller following acquisition in 1883, is an important example of the work of celebrated architects Backhouse and Reynolds. This notable Italianate design is eclipsed only by 'Merchiston Hall' as their finest residential work of the period 1850-60 in Geelong. Removal of the east verandahs has impaired the overall effect of the design, however, the structure survives as an illustration of the nature of the Italianate tradition of the 1850's in Victoria.

## 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.....



# CITY OF GEELONG WEST

URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM

BUILDING ADDRESS *356 Aberdeen Street*

Type *residence* Original Use *residence*

PRESENT BUILDING TITLE *Wimmera formerly Tamar*

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR

GBR

NER

GRPS

NATIONAL TRUST

Classified

Recorded

Reg.No.

—

—

X

255

1189

—

CONSERVATION AREA

No. *N.A.*

Name

*N.A.*

Survey Date *24-6-86*

Neg. File *047-035*

PERIOD

pre 1860

☒

1860 - 1879

☐

1880 - 1899

☐

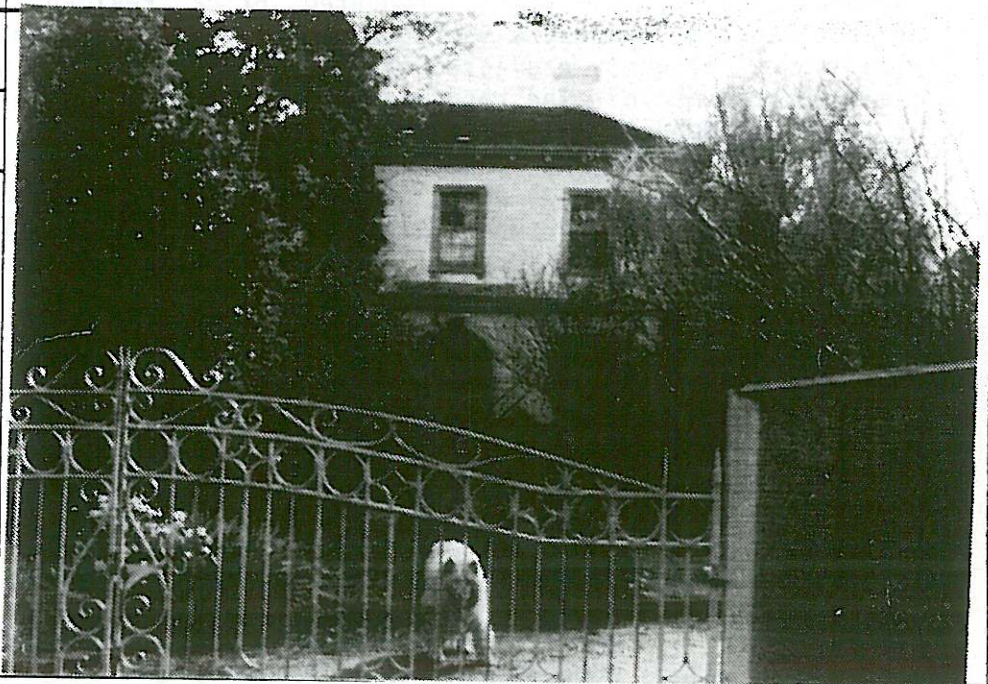
1900 - 1919

☐

1920 - 1939

☐

post 1940

☐


MATERIALS

walls

*stucco & brick*

roof

*slate*

CONSTRUCTION DATE *1858-60* source *G.A., 22.6.1858*  
*7.2.1860*

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

original materials

☒

early paint colour scheme or original unpainted finish

☐

ornamental wall detailing

☒

original doors, windows, hoods

☒

intact verandah / porch structure

☐

original parapet

☐

original roof form and finish

☒

original chimneys

☒

eaves, roof or gable decoration

☒

intact verandah decoration

☐

early fence

☐

early garden

☐

other prominent contributing elevations

☐
☐
☐

INTEGRITY RATING

excellent

☐

good

☒

fair

☐

poor

☐

LORRAINE HUDDLE

LOUISE HONMAN

RICHARD AITKEN

Architectural & Conservation Consultants

1986

page 1.



# CITY OF GEELONG WEST

URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM.

## BUILDING ADDRESS

356 ABERDEEN STREET.

## HISTORY

'Tamar' was designed in 1858 by architects Backhouse and Reynolds, for Mr. John Honeychurch Down, and renamed 'Wimmera' by a subsequent owner William H Lloyd. (1883-1913). It was owned by the Education Department from 1950-1973. In recent years the building has been restored by the owners D.A. and A.M.Young.

## DESCRIPTION

'Wimmera' is a two storey rendered brick residence in the Italianate Style by notable Geelong architects Backhouse and Reynolds. The suggestion of a porch is made by a slightly projected wall section, surmounted by a projected cornice with plain parapet above. The round-arched doorway has a finely moulded architrave which is simply emphasized by a keystone. The east elevation toward Coria Bay had two flights of steps leading to paired Regency verandahs supported by three fine column at each end. Two french doors led to ground floor verandahs while two of the three windows above had balconettes featuring geometric chain moulding in their balustrades.

## SIGNIFICANCE

'Wimmera' is one of the few large villas from the first two decades of settlement to have survived in Geelong West. One of Backhouse and Reynolds best surviving works and the only example of these architects' work in Geelong West. Its significance is enhanced by its high integrity and extensive garden setting. *It is of state significance.*

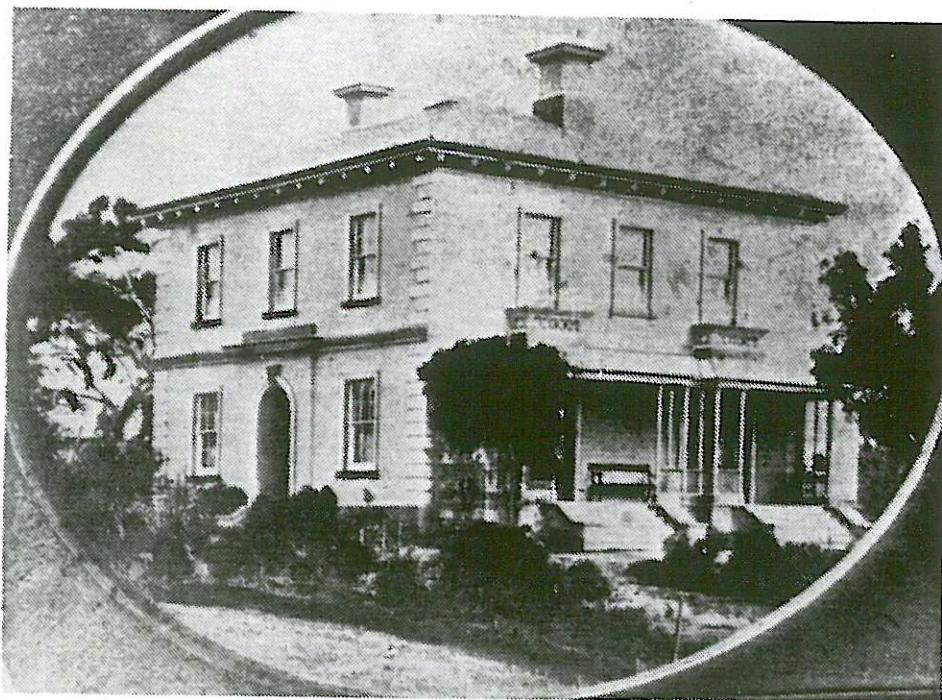
## POLICY/RECOMMENDATIONS

Historic Buildings Council Register, N.E.R., G.R.P.S.

Reinstatement of the eastern verandah would increase the integrity of this building.

## REFERENCES

- G.Seaton, The Ashby Story - A History of Geelong West, Geelong West City Council 1978, pp., 124, 251-252.
- L. Huddle, 'Architects in Geelong in the 1840's and 1850's', Humanities Research Report, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1979, Vol. 1. pp.63-79., Vol. 2. p.40., Vol. 3. p.136.
- A. Willingham, 'Historic Places Documentation Sheet No. 255', Geelong Regional Commission, 1985.
- Photograph of W.H.Lloyd and family at 'Wimmera House', Geelong Historical Records Centre, No. 1704/19.



Wimmera House, Aberdeen Street  
Built c.1859 for W.H.Down - architect, Benjamin Backhouse:  
originally known as Tamar: bought in 1882 by W.H. Lloyd who called  
it Wimmera House

