



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Removed Entry

The Minister for Heritage Directed that this Interim Entry in the State Register not be permanent on 8 August 2005. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 26 August 2005.

1. **DATA BASE No.** 01224
2. **NAME** *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* (early 1870s; 1980s)
3. **LOCATION** 2 Hunts Road, Dongara
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 190 on Diagram 74853 being the whole of land contained in the Certificate of Title Volume: 1848 Folio: 272
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Irwin
6. **OWNER** Peter and Annette Pendlebury
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 20/ 02/ 2004
Removed 26/ 08/ 2005
 - National Trust Classification: Classified 05/ 09/ 1983
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 10/ 03/ 1998
 - Register of the National Estate: Registered 21/ 03/ 1978
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara, comprising a single-storey masonry wall and corrugated iron roof residence built in the Victorian Georgian style, underground cellar, and mature plantings, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place, one of the earliest extant residences built in Dongara and one of the most substantial in the town at that time, was built for early settler and prominent identity in the district, Francis Pearse, and is associated with the development of the town of Dongara and the Irwin district;

the place, located on a prominent site on the banks of the Irwin River, includes a collection of mature trees, forms a distinctive part of the

streetscape, and makes a positive contribution to the character of Dongara;

the place is a good example of a number of Victorian Georgian buildings of the same era in the town, including the simple pitched roof form, verandah under separate roof, conservative detailing, double hung sash and French windows;

the place is representative of a residence constructed for a prominent merchant in a country town in Western Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century; and,

the place is in good condition, and has high integrity as it has been continually used as a residence.

The garage is of little significance.

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 306 Domestic activities
- 604 Local heroes and battlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is a good example of Victorian Georgian style architecture, the characteristics of which include the simple pitched roof form, verandah under separate roof, conservative detailing, and the use of double hung sash and French windows. (Criterion 1.1)

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara, is located on a prominent site on the banks of the Irwin River, forms a distinctive part of the streetscape, and makes a positive contribution to the character of Dongara as an historic landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

The collection of mature trees at *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* makes a contribution to the setting of the residence. (Criterion 1.3)

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara, in association with other adjacent buildings constructed in the nineteenth century along Hunts Road including the Bank of Western Australia (fmr), Police Station (fmr) and Delmage's House, form a historic precinct in Dongara with a common building scale and similar architectural style. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara, one of the earliest extant residences built in Dongara and one of the most substantial in the town at that time, is associated with the development of the town of Dongara and the Irwin district in the late nineteenth century. (Criteria 2.1 and 2.2)

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara was built for Francis Pearse, Dongara businessman, landowner and local identity, and other members of the Pearse family who occupied the place from the early 1870s to c.1946. (Criterion 2.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is associated with Pearse's store, one of the first stores in Dongara, which serviced the town and district from the 1870s, at a main river crossing in the town. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is valued by the Dongara community for its associations with the nearby store, also owned by Francis Pearse, and which served the community for around sixty years. (Criterion 4.1)

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara adds considerably to the local community's sense of place as a substantial residence, with mature trees, that has occupied a prominent position beside the Irwin River since the early 1870s. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is representative of the Victorian Georgian style, characteristic of a number of buildings of the same era in the central area of Dongara. (Criterion 6.1)

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is representative of a residence constructed for a prominent merchant in a country town in Western Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is in good condition. The place appears to have been well maintained externally in recent time, with significant repairs and renovation work undertaken.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara has high integrity. The residential function of the building has been continuous, and is likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. It is possible for significant fabric to be restored and reconstructed.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara has moderate to high authenticity in regard to external fabric. It appears the external masonry may have been repaired or re-rendered, and the type of mix used may not be authentic. The change of the roofing to continuous length roofing sheets is not sympathetic to the place.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by John Taylor Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara (early 1870s) comprises a single-storey masonry wall and corrugated iron roof residence with an underground cellar and an outbuilding, built in Victorian Georgian style for Francis Pearse.

The district along the lower Irwin River was initially taken up as pastoral leases. In September 1850, Samuel Pole Phillips lodged an application for a 20,000-acre lease of pastoral lands in the Irwin River area, following a tour of inspection of the district earlier in the year. Less than a week later, Phillips, together with Edward Hamersley, Lockier Clere Burges and Bartholomew Urban Vigors, made an application for two 20,000-acre leases in the Irwin district on behalf of a new pastoral company, The Cattle Company. Phillips' original lease was situated south-east of Pell Crossing on the Irwin River, and the other two leases commenced near the Mingenew Spring and spread eastward across the fertile areas of the Lockier River and Green Brook. The Company planned to use the leases as an 'out-station' to their other existing properties.¹ Bartholomew Vigors died in March 1854, leaving his share in The Cattle Company to his family, who later sold it to the remaining three partners.²

In 1852, 100-acre agricultural blocks were surveyed in the district and the townsite of Dongara was surveyed on the north bank of the lower Irwin River. The first agricultural blocks were taken up in 1859, when there was no more land available in the settled Greenough district twenty miles away. Within a decade, seventy-one surveyed blocks had been occupied. The district was serviced by shipping at nearby Port Denison, at the mouth of the Irwin River.³ In 1865, John Smith established a flour mill on Location 688, on

¹ Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks: A social and economic history of the Victoria District of Western Australia 1839-1894*, UWA Press, 1975; Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', *Early Days*, Vol. 6 Part 5, pp. 7-21.

² Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks*, op cit; Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', op cit; Deeds of Memorial, Book 6 Memorials 731, 731, 2428-2430, 2602 & 2640, SROWA, CONS 1800.

³ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', op cit.

the south side of the Irwin, opposite the Dongara townsite, and a hotel was built in the town shortly after.⁴

The Cattle Company's lands in the Irwin district were managed by Lockier Burges. The Cattle Company initially ran only cattle and horses, concentrating on breeding horses for the Indian market, and on beef production, as sheep were under threat from dingoes in the area. The Company won a contract to supply beef to the British Government, and did a big trade with butchers in Perth and Fremantle, but there were problems, expenses were high, the partners did not always agree on what the Company should be doing, and there was a lot of public criticism because they occupied much A class land on a B class rental.⁵

In 1867, The Cattle Company was dissolved and the partners each took a portion of the freehold land that had been purchased from the leases over the years. The land was divided into three parcels for the purpose of sharing it out and a drawing of lots was held at Chipper's Hotel, Perth on 1 February 1867. Edward Hamersley drew the parcel of Greenough land, Lockier Burges drew the Middle Irwin section, and Samuel Phillips acquired the Dongara lands. Phillips' land included Victoria Location 317, on the border of the Dongara townsite.⁶

In the 1860s, the Greenough and Irwin districts grew rapidly, having the highest rate of population growth in Western Australia, with the 1870 census showing 1,557 inhabitants.⁷ In 1870-71, Dongara acquired a school, police station and courthouse, and a post office.⁸ Business interests began to consider the developing district. A Deed of Memorial, dated 26 May 1870, recorded the sale of a one-and-a-half acre (approx 0.6ha) section of Victoria Location 317.⁹ The land was purchased for £5 by Fremantle merchants William Bartram and Edward Newman, understood to have been partners in T. & H. Carter and Co, merchants, importers and general shipping agents in Fremantle in the 1860s. Francis Pearse, who worked for T. & H. Carter and Co, went to Dongara to establish a store there for the Company.¹⁰ The store, in which it is claimed he was a partner, is believed to have been established around 1867 or 1868, a few years prior to the sale of the land. The site of the store was on Hunts Road beside Walton's Ford, the Irwin River crossing at

⁴ Lang, Ernie, *Grist To the Mill: A history of flour milling in Western Australia*, Goodman Fielder Mills Ltd & Weston Milling, Perth, 1994, p. 23; Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', op cit.

⁵ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', op cit.

⁶ Deeds of Memorial, Book 6 Memorials 2602 & 2640; Dongara townsite map, c. 1860; Battye J. S. *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, 1913, p. 961.

⁷ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', *Early Days*, Vol. 6 Part 5, pp. 7-21.

⁸ Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, *History of Dongara and the Shire of Irwin: 1839-1971*, Shire of Irwin, 1971, pp. 6-8 & 16.

⁹ Deed of Memorial, Book 7 Memorials 29, 26 May 1870.

¹⁰ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, Facsimile of 1901 edition, Perth, Hesperian Press, 2000, pp. 586-587.

the bottom of Waldeck Street, between Dongara and Port Denison. This piece of land was clearly chosen because of its proximity to a well-used thoroughfare.¹¹

In October 1870, Edward Newman bought out William Bartram's share of the Dongara property for £1,000, the price of sale indicating that a substantial business had been established on the site.¹² Whether a residence was included at that time is not known. In January 1872, the property was put up as partial security for a mortgage of £750, at which time the owner was named as Edward Newman.¹³ Newman died in 1873 or early 1874, and Francis Pearse, with the assistance of his brothers William and George, purchased the property, in 1874, for £853-15-0 from Newman's widow, Ellen, and the mortgagor, William Dockway Jackson. The land at that time was identified as Denison Lot 61.¹⁴

Francis Pearse was the son of William and Susannah Pearse. William Pearse had arrived in the Colony in 1830, as a labourer for Robert Wall. He married Susannah Glyde in 1837 and they had eight surviving children. The family lived at Fremantle where William Pearse worked as a ferryman and dairy farmer and later as a butcher with a large business. He was a member of the Fremantle Town Trust in 1848 and 1850-51. His two oldest sons, William Silas and George established Pearse Brothers, with a tannery and footwear manufactory in Fremantle and retail outlets in Fremantle and Perth.¹⁵

Circa 1871, Francis Pearse married Emma Snook and around this time *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was built beside the store as their family residence. The exact year of construction is not known. It may have been built in 1870-71 for the occupation of the couple when they married, but was more likely constructed following the 1874 purchase of the property by the Pearse brothers. *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* is initially understood to have been built with seven rooms, with another three rooms added at a later date. The residence was located on the west side of the store. There was a mounting-stone beside the front step for lady horse riders, and a boating shed beside the river.¹⁶ The place had terraced gardens sloping down to the River, which it faced, and 'a very nice fruit garden, beautifully situated, from which he exhibited at the Coolgardie Exhibition oranges and lemons which were awarded first prize'.¹⁷ Stables were located to the east side of the place.¹⁸

¹¹ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'Some personalities and Places of the Irwin District, *Early Days*, Vol. 6 Part 6, pp. 57-69; Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, op cit, p. 7.

¹² Deed of Memorial, Book 7 Memorial 93, 8 October 1870.

¹³ Deed of Memorial, Book 7 Memorial 590, 2 January 1872.

¹⁴ Deed of Memorial, Book 7 Memorials 1460, 21 April 1874, purchase in name of William Silas, George and Francis Pearse.

¹⁵ Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Perth, UWA Press, 1988, p. 2448; *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, pp. 501-502.

¹⁶ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'Some personalities and Places of the Irwin District', op cit; Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, op cit, p. 23; Information provided by Irwin Historical Society.

¹⁷ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, p. 587.

In 1872, there were 6,776 acres under tillage in the Lower Irwin area. Developments in Dongara included construction of the Mechanic's Institute Hall (1881), the Anglican and Methodist churches (1884), and the bridge over the Lower Irwin between Dongara and Port Denison (1889).¹⁹ The amount of passing traffic using Walton's Ford would have dropped dramatically when the bridge was opened, but as Hunt's Road also provided access to Point Leander Drive and the bridge, it is not likely to have affected store trade in any measurable way.²⁰

The title to *Pearse House (fmr)*, Dongara and the store was transferred solely to Francis Pearse in 1889.²¹ Pearse's store was one of four in Dongara in the 1890s.

If you had a penny to spend... there were four shops in the nineties where you could go and look and see where and what you would buy. You could go to Sam Moore's or you could go further down the road where there was another little grocer's shop in the big old house known as 'the house with the chimneys', or you could go to Frank Pearse's, and if none of them had what you wanted you could cross the small footbridge that led to Miller Smith's and go to Bayliss's: one of them was sure to have what you wanted.²²

As the town and district grew, Francis Pearse expanded his business interests. The store operated on a barter system, with payments often being made in wheat and other produce. The business dealt largely in general merchandise, but also had a good supply of agricultural machinery available. Francis Pearse acted as local agent for the Adelaide Steamship Company and the Commercial Union Insurance Company.²³

In 1891, the Walkaway-Mingenew section of the Midland Railway line, which skirted the Dongara townsite, was opened, and the rest of the line between Perth and Geraldton was completed in 1894.

The Royal Steam Roller Flour Mill was constructed for Pearse the year the Midland line was completed. It was a four-storey limestone building, with a private siding to the Midland Railway line. The Mill produced six tons of flour a day, but could only get sufficient grain to operate for six months of the year. Much of the flour produced, at least in the early years of operation, was sold in the North West, being shipped to Geraldton and then to the northern ports. Francis Pearse also bought wool 'in large quantities for export', which he stored in a large shed by his private railway siding.²⁴

¹⁸ Photographs 1930s and 1950s provided courtesy Irwin District Historical Society.

¹⁹ Gunzberg, Adrian & Austin, Jeff *Rails Through the Bush*, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, Melbourne, 1997, p. 206.

²⁰ Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, op cit, p. 17.

²¹ Certificate of Title, Vol. 29 Fol. 302, 16 October 1889.

²² Bain, Mary Albertus, 'Some personalities and Places of the Irwin District', op cit, p. 68.

²³ Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, op cit, p. 17.

²⁴ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, p. 587.

Francis Pearse had a small farm of his own, 'Ropley', which was run by manager, Raymond Carter, for many years from c.1910.²⁵ Pearse acquired considerable landholdings in the Dongara township and in the Irwin district when wheat rust and poor harvests forced many smaller land-holders to sell. He bought the property of Gallagher the blacksmith, and ran a blacksmith operation. With his brother William, he obtained properties in the Murchison including Yarragadee, Nalbarra, Yowergabbie and Milly stations.²⁶

As well as his business interests, Pearse was involved in local affairs. He was a member of the Hall Committee in 1881, and the Methodist Church Building Committee in 1883, giving land for the Manse. He was a member of the Irwin Roads Board, and Chairman in 1887 and 1902.²⁷ His association with the Roads Boards may account for the mature Moreton Bay Fig Tree (*ficus macrophylla*) that is situated near the south-west corner of *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara*. The Roads Board had an avenue of Ficus planted along the main street of Dongara in 1906, and the tree at *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* would be about the same age as those on Moreton Terrace.²⁸

Francis and Emma Pearse raised a family at *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara*. Nine children were born but several died in infancy. Their eldest daughter, Frances Priscilla Pearse, married William Bedford Mitchell, younger brother of Sir James Mitchell. William Mitchell joined his father-in-law in partnership in the flour mill, c.1898. He managed the mill and lived next door to it. In 1923, the mill was sold to the Victoria District Flour Milling Co., and William and Frances Mitchell purchased 'The Grange', Samuel Phillips' former pastoral property on the Lower Irwin.²⁹ The second Pearse son, Nelson Archer Leopold Pearse, managed Nalbarra station for some time. Francis (Frank) Newman Pearse, the eldest son, married Florence Renouf and worked with his father in Dongara, eventually taking over the store and agencies when his father retired.³⁰

Francis Pearse retired to his residence 'Hillcrest' in North Fremantle. He died on 1 November 1919.³¹ In 1922, *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was transferred to the ownership of Frank Newman Pearse. Emma Pearse was living in Bellevue Terrace, West Perth at this time, and Frank Pearse was occupying *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara*. When Frank Pearse acquired the title, the landholding had been enlarged with the addition of Lot 7, which was part of

²⁵ Information provided by Irwin District Historical Society.

²⁶ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 2447.

²⁷ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 2447.

²⁸ Ellery, Kit & Bunney, Ron, op cit, pp. 8 & 26; Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', op cit; physical evidence.

²⁹ Lang, Ernie, *Grist to the Mill: A history of flour milling in Western Australia*, Perth, Goodman Fielder Mills Ltd & Weston Milling, 1994, p. 137; HCWA assessment documentation, *The Grange Group*, Place 1215.

³⁰ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 2447; Certificate of Title, Vol. 29 Fol. 302, 1 November 1919.

³¹ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 2447.

a later survey of Location 317 that increased the area of the Dongara townsite. The site of *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was designated Lot 171.³²

It is not known when the store closed, or the building was demolished. *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* remained with the Pearse family until 1946, when Frank Pearse died.³³

In 1947, *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* on Lot 171, and Lot 7 were sold separately. *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was purchased by Mervyn William Sing and Llewellyn Glynder Hopkins, railway repairers of Dongara, and Lot 7 by Annie Mary Herbert.³⁴ In 1952, title to *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was transferred to Gladys Lillian Myrtle Hopkins and Llewellyn Glynder Hopkins. In 1959, the place was purchased by Philip Vincent John Smith and his wife Doris Mercy Giblett Smith and in 1971, the new owner of *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was Albert Ernest Ashbury.³⁵ Lot 171 was subdivided in 1974, effectively reducing it by half to 3039 square metres.³⁶ The land that was subdivided off and sold was on the east side of the Lot and had been the site of Pearse's store.³⁷

Albert Ashbury was born in 1908, and had been a gold prospector and later a farmer. He retired to *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara*. In 1978, the place was described as 'having fallen into disrepair', although the 'beautiful fireplaces and fittings were still in place'.³⁸ When Albert Ashbury died in 1984, his daughters Candessa Ashbury and Melody Cartwright administered his estate. *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* was purchased by Peter James Pendlebury and his wife Annette Ruth Pendlebury on 12 December 1984.³⁹ The Pendlebury's occupied *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* and undertook restoration of the place. It is understood that the floors have been sanded and polished, paint removed from doors to reveal the timber, and some ceilings lowered to remove internal roof angles. A garage has been added on the east side of the place with a roof pitch to match existing.⁴⁰

In 1988, changes to the landholding increased the size of the site with the inclusion of a triangular piece of the original land on the east side. The site was designated Lot 190 on Diagram 74853 with an area of 4,162 square metres, less a 5-metre wide drainage easement on part of the newly acquired land.⁴¹

³² DOLA, Diagram 5896, 2 August 1922.

³³ Certificate of Title, Vol. 809 Fol. 3, 2 September 1922 & 23 July 1946.

³⁴ Certificates of Title, Vol. 809 Fol. 3 & Vol. 1100 Fol. 808, 25 March 1947.

³⁵ Certificates of Title, Vol. 1100 Fol. 808, 12 September 1952, 26 October 1959 & 1 April 1971.

³⁶ Certificate of Title Vol. 1380 Fol. 963, 5 June 1974.

³⁷ Information provided by Irwin District Historical Society.

³⁸ Register of the National Estate documentation for *Pearse House (fmr)*.

³⁹ Certificate of Title, Vol. 1380 Fol. 963, 12 December 1984.

⁴⁰ Information provided by Irwin District Historical Society.

⁴¹ DOLA Diagram 74853, 2 November 1988; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1848 Fol. 272 & Register 190/ D74853.

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara was entered on the Register of the National Estate in 1978 and classified by the National Trust in 1983. The place was entered on the Shire of Irwin Municipal Heritage Inventory in 1998, with a management category 1 listing, which recommends the highest level of protection and possible inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places.⁴²

In 2004, *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* continues to be occupied as a residence.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Access to *Pearse House (fmr), Dongara* for this assessment was not granted by the owners, and as a result this physical description is limited to the exterior of the building that is observable from property boundaries.

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara comprises a single-storey masonry wall and corrugated iron roof residence with an underground cellar and an outbuilding, built in Victorian Georgian style⁴³ on the edge of the Dongara townsite for Francis Pearse in the early 1870s.

The L-shaped house is built on level ground on the north bank of the Irwin River, with a relatively small setback to Hunts Road. The site level falls away rapidly to the river-bank to the south, beyond a low garden wall and Moreton Bay fig tree that marks the rear garden. There are a number of large trees around and in the property, including a row of eucalypts to the east beside a driveway, and Norfolk Island pines to the south behind the fig tree.

A hip-roofed garage structure with rendered walls to match the house exists to the south-east, accessed by a driveway down the east side of the house. A small portion of the house (the south-east corner) has a differing roof pitch, and in the east elevation of this south-east corner there are three high-level windows of a proportion that would indicate this area may be of different age to the major section of the residence.

The main roof is of hipped form, and it is apparent from site observation that the roof sheeting, which is of continuous length ridge to gutter line, has been replaced in relatively recent times. This is confirmed by a documentary evidence photograph taken in 1978 showing two sheet lengths forming the main roof cover.⁴⁴ The verandah roof extends from just below the main roof, indicating the rafters are pitched from a planted wall-plate on the exterior walls. The verandah roof extends all across the north elevation and wraps around the majority of the east and west elevations. Comparison of existing fabric with the 1978 photograph reveals further change. At least two

⁴² Suba (Henkel), Tanya & Grundy, Graham, *Shire of Irwin Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*, Shire of Irwin, 1997-98, Place no. 25.

⁴³ Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter A *Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 42-5.

⁴⁴ Australian Heritage Commission photographic database, place RRNO: 9640, RT-ID: RT26592, photo taken 1978 by M. Bourke.

additional chimneys have been formed through the roof since that time. It is not known whether these chimneys are reconstructions of original elements.

Landscaping to the front (north) yard has been reduced around the verandahs since 1978, and cross-braced timber balustrades have been added between verandah posts to the corner bays of the verandah. Two lattice screens have been placed, one in front of the main doorway closest to Hunts Road, and another at the rear of the west verandah - near to an external structure with sloping roof that suggests an underground cellar entry.

The masonry floor to the verandah is set approximately 300 millimetres above surrounding ground levels, and appears to be almost at the same floor level as the house. There are quoins to the corners and to the window and door reveals of the rendered masonry walls. The external masonry may have been repaired or re-rendered, as it appears to be in remarkably good condition. Window and door joinery appears to be all of painted timber, with timber framed insect-screen doors outside of the doors opening to the verandahs, some of which are 'French' doors. Windows closest to Hunts Road are double-hung six-pane sash, with a projecting masonry sill.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Pearse House (fmr), Dongara is a representative example of a Victorian Georgian style residence and has much in common with farm homesteads of the style. Single-storey examples of such residences are P1763 *Old Blythewood*, Pinjarra (1845), P3569 *Enderslea*, Chittering (1853), P0394 *Sandilands*, Busselton (1840), P1923 *Mangowine*, Nungarin (1874) and P0707 *Golden Valley Homestead*, Balingup (1880s), which are all on the Register of Heritage Places. Examples of the style in an urban environment include P2870 *Residency Museum*, York (1858), formerly part of the convict depot, P3253 *Butterly House*, Toodyay (c.1870), P0029 *Melville House*, Albany (1873) and P1912 *Chiverton House*, Northampton (c. 1883). There are also several two-storey residences in the style, including P0389 *Prospect Villa*, Busselton (c. 1855) and P1233 *Dongara Schoolmaster's House (fmr)* (1893). All these places are entered on the State Register.

Prospect Villa, *Butterly House* and *Chiverton House* are also associated with rural businessmen. Entered on the State Register are six substantial residences associated with significant rural business operations, which are described below.

Prospect Villa, Busselton (Place 0389) was built c.1855 for flour mill owner James Chapman and later occupied by storekeeper Robert Pries, who operated his store from an addition he made to the place. *Prospect Villa* has been occupied as a bed and breakfast premise since 1989.

Butterly House, Toodyay (Place 3253) was built c. 1870 for storekeepers J. H. Monger and family and was leased as a bank from 1889 to 1899. The place is leased by the Shire of Toodyay to Butterly Cottages Association Aged Persons' Units and has been restored for use as an 'autumn club'.

Chiverton House, Northampton (Place 1912) was built c. 1883 by merchant and mine owner, Charles Crowther, and shares a common wall with a c.1876 store building. The place is associated with an early cottage and several farm buildings. Since 1969, the place has been used as a museum, with the cottage occupied by a caretaker.

Hillside, Albany (Place 3572) is a two-storey residence built in Victorian Filigree style for Albert Young Hassell in 1886. Albert and his brother John Francis managed the Hassell family's considerable business and commercial interests in Albany. The place was later used as a reception centre and has been occupied as a residence since 1988.

Byfield House, Northam (Place 1878) was built in 1902 for James Byfield, wheelwright, coachbuilder and owner of a flourmill and sawmill. The place is a two-storey residence in Federation Queen Anne style and has been occupied as a residence since 1994, after being restored and operated as gallery and tearooms for a number of years.

Uralia, Northam, (Place 1876) was built in 1902-03 for George Lionel Throssell, partner in Throssell, Son & Stewart, the largest merchant business in Northam. *Uralia* is a single-storey residence constructed in Federation Free style and has been used as a hospital and a monastery. Since 1988 it has been a private residence.

Pearse House (fmr), *Dongara* is a representative example of a Victorian Georgian style residence.

Pearse House (fmr), *Dongara* is representative of a residence constructed for a prominent merchant in a country town in Western Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The condition and authenticity of the internal fabric is not clear without further research and documentation.

Archeological investigations may reveal the layout of original gardens.