

Phoebe Abbey's House

Site Details and Ownership

Address/Location:	42 (Lot 151) Seymour Street WEST BUSSELTON WA 6280
Owners Name:	Prizeview Investments Pty Ltd
Occupied:	No
Public Access:	Restricted
Landgate Pin:	534105
HCWA Number:	00384
Other Names:	Weetman's House, Abbey Home

Particulars of Building/ Site

Building Type:	Farmhouse
Construction Date:	1865 Architect/Designer/Builder: Christopher Weetman
Present Use:	Residence (Single Storey Residence)
Historical:	Farming Pastoral (Homestead)
Description:	A Victorian Georgian limestone, shingle and iron roofed farmhouse and accretions.
Walls:	Limestone
Roof:	Corrugated Iron
Other materials:	Timber Shingles
Architectural Style:	Victorian Georgian

Site Assessment

Historical Notes:	The Abbeyes were early farmers in the Vasse district. Nathaniel Abbey built the place in the 1870s. The Abbeyes were Irish immigrants who arrived in the Colony in the early 1840s. Thomas Abbey arrived in the Colony and worked for John Bussell at Vasse and later leased land at Wonnerup, then settled near Broadwater.
Description Notes:	Phoebe Abbey's House is a single storey limestone and shingle roofed cottage with an iron roof laid over it. It has a gabled roof and appears to have been built in a number of stages. There are twentieth century additions to the rear. A full width verandah extends across the front of the house. The setting has been stripped in recent times.
Condition Notes:	The place is in disrepair, but is capable of being conserved and adapted. The place is in fair condition.

Integrity Notes:	Though unoccupied at the time of the inspection, the intent of the place remains obvious so that the place retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.
Authenticity Notes:	The place has been extended, altered and improved on a number of occasions, but there is a good deal of authentic underlying fabric.
Archaeological Description:	Because of its long occupation, the site is likely to have archaeological potential.
Statement of Significance:	<p>Phoebe Abbey's House, a limestone, shingle and iron roofed farmhouse in the Victorian Georgian style, has cultural heritage significance as a surviving farmhouse in the urban area, a good and complex example of the type and has historic value for its associations with the Abbeyes who were early Colonial arrivals and farmers in the district.</p> <p>It is a rare example of a 1860s building which has survived in the town of Busselton;</p> <p>It is an example of the expertise of early builders in the Swan River colony and the Busselton district;</p> <p>It is associated with Christopher Weetman, an early master builder and the Abbey family, one of the early pioneering families in the district;</p> <p>The building demonstrates physically the extent of the Busselton town site in the 1860s; and</p> <p>The place has retained a high degree of integrity.</p>
Historic Themes:	Occupations (Grazing, Pastoralism and Dairying), People (Early Settlers)
Management Category:	1

Registration Details

National Trust:	Classified 13/06/2005
Municipal Inventory:	Adopted 20/06/1996 – PN038
Heritage List:	Yes
State Heritage Register:	No
Associations:	Christopher Weetman, Ellen & John Abbey, Christopher & Phoebe Abbey and G & R Powell & Family
Bibliography:	<p>National Trust, WA Historic Places Assessment, J. Murray, F. Bush April 2005.</p> <p>Erickson, R. The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829-1888, Vol. IV, UWA Press, Perth, 1988.</p> <p>Jennings R. Busselton, "A Place to Remember", 1850-1914, City of Busselton, 1999.</p> <p>'Memories of the Past' (1885), cuttings from the Busselton Historical Society; Information about the Abbey Family, read to the Busselton Historical Society by J.G. Taylor, 23 April 1967.</p>

