



Fairymead House

Establishment

- Built in 1890 to an Indian bungalow plan, Fairymead House was originally a manager's residence built for Ernest and Margaret Young, owners of Fairymead Sugar Mill and Plantation. Fairymead House was located nearby the former Fairymead Sugar Mill site.
- Designed by Sydney architect John Shedden Adam (Margaret Young's brother), the style of Fairymead House was influenced by Queensland climate and culture.
- The architect made a number of inclusions to accommodate requests made by Mrs Young, including designing the front stairs with a raised landing so that she could alight from her carriage without dirtying her shoes.

Through the times

- Between WWI and WWII, the house was used as single men's quarters by Fairymead mill and plantation workers.
- In the early 1950s the house was used for European refugee accommodation.
- In 1960, Christopher Young (grandson of Ernest and Margaret Young) moved his family back into Fairymead House, remaining there until 1986.
- In 1988, the house was given to the City of Bundaberg as a bicentennial gift from Bundaberg Sugar.

Relocation

- Fairymead House was transported to its new site at the Botanic Gardens, arriving in six pieces and reassembled on site.
- The house now features a collection of interpretive items donated by local cane farming families and icons in the community.

Building description

- The home features a 600m² floor area, 16 foot ceilings, wide verandahs and extended eaves, designed to provide shade and natural cooling.
- The interior of the home has undergone very few structural changes since its construction in 1890.
- Fairymead House displays a series of static displays, illustrating the lifestyle of a plantation owner in the late 19th Century and the social aspects of the development of the sugar industry.
- The building has a large hipped corrugated iron roof and is characterised as a two storey timber and masonry residence.
- The verandah contains timber floors, also featuring posts and handrails with timber battern infill panels forming the balustrade.



Building Australia's
best regional community





References

- Bundaberg Regional Council, 2018, *Fairymead House Heritage Venue*, Bundaberg Regional Council; viewed 25 June 2018, fairymeadhouse.com.au/History-of-the-House.
- Maryborough Chronicle, 1887, *Fairymead Plantation, Bundaberg, 'Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser'*, National Library of Australia, Trove.
- Queensland Government, 2016, *Fairymead House*, Queensland Government, viewed 25 June 2018, environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=601009#.
- State Library of Queensland, ca.1894, *Fairymeade House, Bundaberg, ca. 1894*, Young and Coy's, ca.1894, John Oxley Library, National Library of Australia, Trove.

"The Messrs' Young reside close to the mill and have a fine house surrounded by a beautifully kept garden" (Maryborough Chronicle, 1887).



Source: State Library of Queensland, ca.1894

