Historic Timeline of Werribee Park

1835

Port Phillip Association headed by John Batman settles around bay including Werribee.

The land is surveyed by John Helder Wedge.

1839

Thomas Chirnside arrives in Australia and begins droving from Sydney to Adelaide with his sheep.

1851

Thomas Chirnside purchases land in Werribee and Point Cook.

Gold is discovered in Victoria.

1836

Edward Davy Wedge, brother to JH Wedge, establishes sheep stations at Werribee.

1841

Andrew Chirnside arrives from Scotland and begins a lifelong partnership with Thomas.

Source: Wyndham Our Story, The Mansion at WP - General History Resource Kit, Wool Past the Winning Post, State Library Vic, Royal Historical Society of Vic

1866

Thomas and Andrew purchase Skibo Castle in Scotland and live there for the next four years.

1874

Work begins on constructing the Mansion in late 1874.

1885

Andrew Chirnside is elected Shire of Wyndham President.

1863

Thomas has a freehold of more than 90,000 acres across either side of the Werribee River.

1870

Thomas, Andrew, Mary and family return to Australia with a view to settling here for the rest of their lives.

1877

The interior of the Mansion is completed and furniture moves in from storage at Point Cook.

1887

Death of Thomas Chirnside. Werribee Mansion is inherited by Andrew Chirnside.



1890

Death of Andrew Chirnside. Mansion and surrounds left to sons George and John Percy.

1921

Mansion is sold to Philip Lock, a Warnambool Grazier.

1908 Death of Mary Chirnside.

1923

Corpus Christi Seminary is established when the Catholic Church purchase the Mansion from Philip Lock.

1973

Mansion is sold to Victorian Government and restoration begins under the Werribee Park Committee of Management, chaired by Ron Walker.

1985

Mansion managed by Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.



1977

Werribee Mansion opens to the public by Sir Rupert Hamer, Premier of Victoria.

1990

Parks Victoria begin management of Werribee Park.

