

Heritage Citation

Canberra

Key details

Also known as	Carseldine Residence
Addresses	At 2167 Gympie Road, Bald Hills, Queensland 4036
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L5_RP136178
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 December 2017 Date of Citation — June 2014
Construction	Walls: Timber
People/associations	Arthur Carseldine (Occupant)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (H) Historical association

This house was built in 1902 for Arthur Carseldine, a member of the Carseldine family who were prominent early settlers in Bald Hills and surrounding districts. Arthur Carseldine is the grandson of William Carseldine after whom the adjoining suburb was named. Arthur Carseldine was an important member of the local community, achieving educational and business success as well as serving in military and community capacities. This is the oldest house associated with the Carseldine family remaining in the district.

History

This property was originally part of a larger block comprising 8 acres, 2 roods and 32 perches that was

purchased by James Carseldine, of Brisbane on 30 November 1864. He paid £75.14.9 for his land holding that was described as Portion 108. The Carseldine family had established itself in the Bald Hills district in 1858 when James' father, William Carseldine cleared the land and took up farming. James is William's second son and opened Bald Hill's first general store off Gympie Road in 1869.

James Carseldine's large block remained intact until 1887, when two small subdivisions were transferred to his brother, Joseph Carseldine (32 perches) and to Robert Day (1 rood, 1.3 perches). The northern railway reached Bald Hills in 1888, when James lost another 3.3 perches, resumed by the Commissioner for Railways. The arrival of the railway brought change to the district, making it easier for settlers to reach and live in the area.

Between 1890 and 1902, James further subdivided his land and disposed of other smaller blocks. On 22 June 1901, Joseph Carseldine's son, Arthur Wesley Carseldine, born in 1880, obtained title to 1 rood and 24 perches. Arthur married Ethel Tucker on 18 June 1902. It was a double wedding, with Rose Tucker, Ethel's sister, marrying Mr. A. Stewart, the youngest son of another Bald Hills pioneer, John Stewart. A short time afterwards, Arthur obtained a mortgage for £75 on his land from the Commonwealth Bank. This loan is likely to have gone towards paying for the construction of a house on Arthur's land.

The Carseldine family history records that Jim Young, a local building contractor, built four adjoining houses of differing designs. This included his own home 'Dresden' as well as this house for Arthur Carseldine. 'Canberra' was built in the style of the time with separation between the verandah and main house roofs and a brick chimney that was connected to the lounge room fireplace, the kitchen's wood stove and the laundry's copper boiler. The house at 2167 Gympie Road was completed by 1903, with Arthur W. Carseldine listed at his Bald Hills address in the 1903 edition of the *Queensland Post Office Directories*. Ethel and Arthur's new home at 2167 Gympie Road remained the family home for the birth of at least four, of their eight, children. Later, Arthur is said to have had a larger home built on a neighbouring block, much of which is now the pre-school, and moved into it in 1921. Various members of the Carseldine family owned the land that was amalgamated into the school reserve in 1975 and a large house can be seen on the block in the 1946 aerial photos.

As a child, Arthur W. Carseldine was awarded a prestigious Grammar School scholarship, after successfully competing in the scholarship exams held on 15 and 16 December 1891. He served part-time in a Queensland Light Horse regiment and was invited to participate in the Honour Guard provided for the opening of the first Australian Parliament. He sat astride his own horse, named 'Lucky', at the opening ceremony that was held at the Melbourne Exhibition Building on 9 May 1901. This was obviously an important event for him and he named his house 'Canberra' in honour of the site selected for the new Commonwealth's capital.

In 1904, Arthur Carseldine established a business as a fruit and produce merchant and was one of the prime movers in establishing the Brisbane Markets. He became a judge in the fruit sections of agricultural shows, and was president of the Pine Rivers Show Society for a number of years. He was a local campaigner for improved railway services and ran charity drives, including an 'eggs for hospitals' drive. He served in the Australian Light Horse in World War I and was a mainstay of the local Methodist Church. At the Bald Hills Centenary celebrations in 1957, he had the distinction of being the district's oldest surviving resident.

Arthur's Uncle James had been instrumental in donating the land and then building the Methodist Church at Bald Hills. Arthur continued the family tradition of service to the local Methodism – he was a lay preacher and Circuit Steward and Sunday School Superintendent for many years. An article about the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bald Hills Methodist Church stated:

“Even a short sketch of the history of the church would not be complete if mention was not made of the name of Mr. Arthur Carseldine, who, as secretary of trustees, superintendant of Sunday School, and local preacher, has rendered yeoman service.”¹

In 1943, the house and land was transferred to Arthur and Ethel’s son, Maurice Arthur Carseldine. In 1950, the property’s ownership changed from the Carseldines to the Kundes, also a district farming family.

As close local descendants of the pioneering Carseldine family, Arthur and Ethel Carseldine were given prominence in the 1957 Bald Hills Centenary celebrations. The Carseldine family celebrated the centenary of its contribution to Bald Hills in 1958. Arthur and Ethel Carseldine hosted the 610 family members who gathered together at Bald Hills to commemorate the arrival of William Carseldine in the district and the subsequent history of the family. Arthur Carseldine was feted as a local identity by *The Telegraph* newspaper in 1965, when he was identified and interviewed as Bald Hills’ oldest resident. Arthur was 85 at the time of his newspaper interview but passed away in September 1965.

The Kunde family sold ‘Canberra’ to Joan and Clifford Hartley in 1969. The Harleys subdivided the property into Lots 1 and 2 in 1971 and retained a 35.2 perch block that included ‘Canberra’. They further subdivided the property, selling a new Lot 2 to Leonard Thompson in 1974. This left them with Lot 5, an 868 square metre property that contained ‘Canberra’. The property has since had a number of owners.

Description

‘Canberra’ is a single storeyed timber structure with a corrugated metal hipped roof and separate roof for the encircling verandah. The house fronts Gympie Road and is surrounded by lawn and gardens.

The building presents a symmetrical elevation to the street, with a central staircase and entrance. The verandah has timber posts with decorative brackets and the balustrades have metal lacework, not unlike the original. Internally most internal walls remain although the rooms, particularly the kitchen have been modernised.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as an early twentieth century home it demonstrates the suburb's early development as a rural township in the nineteenth century, prior to its substantial residential development in the 1980s.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as the residence is one of the few late nineteenth and early twentieth century homes remaining in Bald Hills.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as the house was built in 1902 for Arthur W. Carseldine, a prominent local resident and grandson of the man after whom the adjacent suburb is named; it is the earliest surviving residence of the important pioneering Carseldine family of the Bald Hills / Carseldine district.

References

1. "Bald Hills Church", *The Brisbane Courier*, 9 June 1923, p.18
2. Brisbane City Council. Property Records
3. Brisbane City Council, 1946 & 2009 aerial photographs
4. Shaw, B. (comp.), *Bald Hills Heritage Tour* (Brisbane: Brisbane History Group, 1993)
5. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of Title and other records
6. *Queensland Post Office Directories, 1868-1949*
7. "Family Notices", *The Brisbane Courier*, 5 July 1902

8. "A.W. Carseldine", *Queensland Country Life*, 1 June 1910
 9. "Bald Hills Church", *The Brisbane Courier*, 9 June 1923
 10. "The Bribie Drowning Tragedies", *The Brisbane Courier*, 10 April 1920
 11. "General News – Grammar School Scholarships", *The Queenslander*, 23 January 1892
 12. "Cobb's coaches gave Bald Hills its first lift", *The Telegraph*, 12 June 1965
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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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