

Heritage Citation



Pymore

Key details

Also known as	Nurses' Rest Home
Addresses	At 19 Mallon Street, Bowen Hills, Queensland 4006
Type of place	House, Care facility
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Georgian
Lot plan	L1_RP9990
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — August 2007
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Richard Gailey Jnr (Architect)

Originally constructed between 1877 and 1887 as a private residence for John Govers, this substantial timber building was transferred to the Australian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch) for use as a nurses' rest home some time after World War I. Additions to the building in 1930 and 1935 were overseen by architect Richard Gailey Jnr and by 1938, the home had about 18 permanent residents. Richard Gailey also oversaw the construction of the air raid shelter on the grounds in 1943, built as a precaution against attacks from the Japanese during World War II. Further modifications were carried out in the 1950s, and in 1992 the building was sold to private owners who converted it into a private hotel/guest house.

History

The Deed of Grant was issued to Joshua Jeays in 1856. The area of land attached to the grant was just over 2 acres and 2 roods in size. Jeays was an architect and builder by trade and speculated in land in a number of areas including Bowen Hills. Jeays erected Bardon House, was involved in the construction of Government House, and at one time served as Lord Mayor of Brisbane. He was a prominent citizen in Brisbane until his death in 1881.

Jeays never lived at the property and eventually subdivided the land into smaller portions. Francis Smith purchased an allotment in 1874. Smith in turn transferred the land to Henry Smith in 1876. Henry Smith and a Francis Smith are listed in the Post Office Directories (PODs) for 1876 and 1878 respectively as bricklayers. The land was then subsequently purchased by John Govers in 1877.

Although some evidence indicates that Jeays constructed this house it cannot be verified. Factors such as a number of owners in quick succession, in conjunction with the size of the house, and the number of mortgages taken out during the 1877-1887 suggest that Govers constructed the house. The entry in the Post Office Directory for 1887 clearly shows that a John Govers was living in Mallon Street. Govers' occupation in the POD was listed as a wool broker.

In 1888 the property was transferred to John Dunham, produce merchant. Dunham subdivided the land in 1890 and retained the portion with the house, now 30.5 perches in size. The house remained in the Dunham family until it was transferred to trustees representing the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch) Nurses' Rest Home. The home was purchased for £1,250/0/0.

The Association was created in 1899 to promote the profession of nursing and to provide standards of registration. The idea for a rest home was first suggested in 1914 but the First World War delayed matters. The home was created to assist nurses who were unable to follow the nursing profession "from age or other related causes". The benefits offered were "a furnished room, fuel and light, free of charge". In addition, rooms, when available, were offered to nurses who were unable to procure accommodation elsewhere. This also helped supplement the income of the institution.

Adapting an older home from private use to a caring institution required continual maintenance, upgrading of facilities, additions and fund raising. Additions to the house were made in 1930 and in 1935 with the construction of a wing. Richard Gailey (Jnr) was the architect in both instances. The 1938 Annual report discloses the

available accommodation to nurses as being, 18 residents, with two nurses being granted temporary accommodation and “one room free”.

An air raid shelter was constructed in 1943 with the Public Works Department providing half the cost at £50/12/6. The shelter was constructed under the supervision of Richard Gailey. During the 1950s further additions were made to the hostel. Brisbane City Council records indicate that an application for further additions were made in 1951 and 1954. The latter application was for an alteration to the verandah.

The Annual report of 1941 announced that the bathrooms at the home were renovated “from the proceeds of Bridge Parties organised the previous year by Mrs L. Selwood”. Fund raising played an important role in the maintenance of the facility. It also drew the association into Brisbane society with the holding of fundraising events. These included the above bridge parties, and dances called “The White Angel Ball” which involved the Lady Mayoress, Mrs A.J. Jones.

The association sold the property in 1992 to the current owners. The property is presently used as a guest house/private hotel.

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 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

for its long association with the Queensland branch of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, an important Australasian nursing institution that provided an invaluable social service to the profession.

References

1. BCC building cards
2. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
3. Brisbane City Council Building Registers

4. John Oxley Library, newspaper clippings files
 5. Queensland Post Office Directories
 6. Queensland Women's Historical Association. *A Look Back in Time: A History of Bowen Hills - Newstead and 'The Creek'*. Breakfast Creek: QWHA, 1996.
 7. Strachan, Glenda. *The History of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association*
 8. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
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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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