

Heritage Citation



Woodville

Key details

Addresses	At 18 Woodville Street, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Free Classical
Lot plan	L9_RP23680; L8_RP23680
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 November 2012 Date of Citation — January 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry

People/associations	Raymond Arthur Dart (Occupant); Samuel Dart (Occupant)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (H) Historical association
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‘Woodville’ is a brick nineteenth-century house built by early Indooroopilly resident Samuel Dart. Situated at the top of a hill originally facing Moggill Road, Woodville characterises the growth of wealth and prosperity in the Indooroopilly area in the late nineteenth century. Built between 1886 and 1889, Woodville was initially home to Samuel Dart between 1889 and 1900, then again between 1921 and 1932. Woodville also has associations with Raymond Arthur Dart, Samuel’s son and important anthropologist and anatomist.

History

Farming began in the Moggill, Fig Tree Pocket and Long Pocket districts. More intensive development of the area followed the opening of the Indooroopilly railway service in 1876. Wealthy families, drawn by the elevated land and proximity to the river, established gracious villas on large allotments of land. Some of these were subdivided during the prosperous years of the 1880s. By the end of the decade the local community was well established with Presbyterian and Primitive Methodist churches, schools, a post office, hotel and a number of stores.

In 1886 Samuel Dart purchased 2 acres, 35 and 5/10 perches in Indooroopilly. Samuel Dart was born in Blenheim, Queensland in 1860. His early years were spent on his father’s farm at what is now St. Lucia and the University of Queensland site. By 1867 William Dart had purchased land at Chelmer and established a farm. Samuel was recorded as one of the original students that attended the West Oxley State School (now known as Sherwood State School) when it opened in 1867. In 1880 Samuel married Eliza Brimblecombe, daughter of James Brimblecombe, Brookfield pioneer. Samuel Dart was first listed at Indooroopilly 1889, suggesting the residence was built between 1886 and 1889.

The Dart family continued to reside at Woodville until 1900 when they moved to a dairy farm at Blenheim near Laidley. Samuel Dart was listed as living at Blenheim for the next nineteen years. Throughout this period Woodville remained in the ownership of Samuel Dart and was rented out to various tenants over the period. In 1921, however, Samuel moved back to Woodville, being listed at the address in 1921. The same year he was entered in the Electoral Rolls at Woodville, Indooroopilly as a farmer.

In 1893 Eliza Dart gave birth to Raymond Arthur Dart, the fifth of nine children in the family. Raymond was an extremely important and controversial scientific figure in the first half of the twentieth century. His early life was spent at Woodville until he was school age. In 1900 he moved with his family to Blenheim. After serving in the Australian Medical Corp in the First World War he took a post as senior demonstrator in anatomy at the University College London, eventually moving to South Africa. As an academic with the medical faculty at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, he was instrumental in proving the so called ‘missing link’ in the theory of human evolution. In 1924 whilst studying a recently found fossil of a child’s skull, from Taungs (a remote area in South Africa) Dart believed he had discovered evidence of this ‘missing link’. The skull exhibited both hominoid and apish traits. Dart named the species *Australopithecus africanus*. In 1925 he published his

findings in the International journal Nature. For the next twenty years this theory proved to be extremely controversial within the scientific community, however as more discoveries of similar hominid fossils were made Dart's theory was accepted. Robert Broom, a leading palaeontologist stated that Dart's discovery was "one of the greatest discoveries in the world's history". Raymond Dart continued to be an influential figure in the scientific world for the next three decades.

Samuel Dart continued to live at Woodville until his death 1932. The property remained in the Dart family until 2002.

Prior to the subdivision and building work that has occurred on the property, 'Woodville' made an important contribution to the Moggill Road streetscape between Rylatt and Woodville Street. The large front yard sloped down to Moggill Road from the house and created an idyllic setting. "Woodville" is an important reminder of Indooroopilly's past as a semi-rural Brisbane suburb in the nineteenth century.

Description

Woodville is a low-set nineteenth-century brick house that sits at the top of a sloping hill. The residence has a pyramid-roof core with a stepped verandah, paved brackets under the eaves of the core roof, and a curved pediment over the verandah entrance. The verandah is a u-shaped verandah without balustrades and with single posts with iron lace brackets. The central front timber door has coloured glass sidelights and a semi-circular fanlight above. The two front windows are original tripartite sash windows. The residence has the original brick chimney. The residence has had two extensions made to the side and the rear of the building. However, this has had little impact on the fabric of the original building.

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 a nineteenth-century brick residence, 'Woodville' demonstrates the increased growth of wealth and prosperity in Indooroopilly in this period as the area was increasingly settled by affluent Brisbane residents.

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 a house built by prominent early Indooroopilly resident, Samuel Dart; as the childhood home of Raymond Arthur Dart, important anthropologist and anatomist.

References

1. History Papers and History Notes 2002-2003, ed. Robin Trotter, Indooroopilly and District Historical Society, Indooroopilly, 2005
2. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
3. Judy Gale Rechner, *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: a guide to the affordable house*, Brisbane: Brisbane History Group Studies No. 2, 1998
4. *Historic Titles*, Department of Natural Resources and Water
5. Queensland Post Office Directories
6. *Metropolitan Water and Sewage Survey Maps*, 1949
7. *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Online Edition*, "Raymond Arthur Dart"
8. Queensland Electoral Rolls
9. Dart, Raymond Arthur, "Australopithecus africanus: The Man-ape of South Africa", *Nature*, February 7, 1925

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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