

## Heritage Citation



### Airdrie

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 156 Barton Road, Hawthorne, Queensland 4171
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L5_RP12491; L6_RP12491; L7_RP12491
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — June 2014
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

'Airdrie' is a substantial timber home constructed circa 1908. It was the home of Alexander Hamilton Thomson, a draper, and his wife, Mary, who were both from well known local Scottish families. The house was built on the Barton Estate which was subdivided from the 1880s and is an attractive example of a large timber home built during the Federation era.

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## History

Historical research indicates that this substantial timber bungalow near the Bulimba Reach of the Brisbane River was constructed by 1908. It was built on the Barton Estate which was subdivided for residential development from the 1880s.

In the 1880s, the Bulimba/Hawthorne area was being transformed from a rural community en route to Wynnum and Cleveland to a residential locality. By 1895, most of the land between Barton Street (then Veitch's Road) and Wynnum Rd (then the Old Cleveland Rd) had been subdivided into residential estates, including the Barton Estate between Barton Road and Lindsay Street. However, the westernmost part of Barton Road as far as Gordon Street was still a large parcel of just over two acres.

In 1911, six allotments from this parcel of land (including the three subject lots facing Barton Road) were acquired by George Angus Shand, the manager of the Queensport Meat Works on Lytton Road. By 1908, postal records show Shand's son-in-law, Alexander Hamilton Thomson, and his wife, Mary (nee Shand) were living at Barton Road. Shand was of Scottish descent and emigrated with his family to Sydney in the 1860s. Both Shand and his father were significant figures in the Australian meat industry.

Postal records indicate that George Angus Shand's daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Alexander Thomson, were living in Barton Road by 1908. It is possible that Shand purchased the land in Barton Road circa 1907-1908, built the subject house for his daughter and son-in-law who wed in 1906, but delayed registering the titles. In 1914, Mary Thomson advertised in the Brisbane Courier for "competent help" for her small family at "Barton Road, Hawthorne, near ferry". In 1917, the titles to the property were transferred to Alexander and Mary Thomson.

Alexander Thomson was also from a family of Scottish immigrants. His parents arrived in Queensland in the 1880s and settled in Bulimba. His mother, Marion Thomson was a well known local personality and member of the Presbyterian Church at Bulimba. It is likely the house was named 'Airdrie' after her birthplace in Scotland.

'Airdrie' is a good example of the Federation era bungalow style of housing adapted for the subtropical Brisbane climate. Retaining the symmetry of earlier houses, Brisbane's early twentieth century bungalows often featured less ornate detailing than the villas of the 1880s, with timber rather than cast iron balustrading. They also tended to have large, single roof forms and a more ground hugging design.

The Thomsons continued to reside in the subject house until they sold it in 1920 to Captain Lancelot Newton, a master mariner, and his wife, Elizabeth. The house has since changed hands numerous times. Alterations to the house have included a pool in 1987, a carport in 1991, an extension to the rear of the house and a recent

extension to the deck.

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## Description

'Airdrie' is a substantial, timber home slightly elevated on stumps with an iron roof. It has a large pyramidal roof form broken by a gabled entry over the front door. A short split staircase leads to the entrance in the front verandah. (The staircase was originally a single short flight of steps with a landing half way). A pair of French doors flank the centrally located front door.

The U shaped front verandah has been enclosed on the western side of the house at the front.

A jacaranda tree and a Poinciana tree are located near the front boundary and frame the view of the house from the street. There is a pool near the back boundary on the eastern side.

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## 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:

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### Historical

#### CRITERION A

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

for the evidence it provides of the continuing development of Hawthorne as a middle class suburb during the early twentieth century.

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### Representative

#### CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a good example of a substantial, timber, Federation era bungalow.

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## Aesthetic

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

for its pleasing proportions, detailing and asymmetrical design, which is enhanced by the mature jacaranda and poinciana trees which frame the view to the front of the house.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
2. Brisbane City Council. Detail Plan no 1212
3. *Courier Mail*, 29 Sept 1939. 16 May 1939
4. Queensland Certificates of Title
5. Queensland Post Office Directories
6. Commonwealth Electoral Rolls 1903
7. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
8. *Queenslander*, 17 Mar 1906. NLA Trove website
9. *Queensland Times*. 16 May 1939

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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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