

Heritage Citation



Anzac Cottage

Key details

Also known as	TB Home
Addresses	At 17 Bovelles Street, Camp Hill, Queensland 4152
Type of place	Cottage, House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L26_S312391
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — January 2004
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations	War Service Homes (Builder)
----------------------------	-----------------------------

Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (G) Social
------------------------------	--

17 Bovelles Street was built ca. 1925 under the Anzac Cottage Scheme, an initiative of the Queensland War Council under the sub-committee named the Anzac Cottage Trust. Its directive was to establish homes for widows and their dependants of enlisted men killed in the First World War. Construction of the homes was funded by the Queensland Lottery, 'Golden Casket', and they were built using volunteer labour. Only thirty-eight Anzac Cottages were built in Brisbane, many of which no longer survive. 17 Bovelles Street is important as a rare surviving example of an Anzac Cottage in Brisbane.

History

The land on which 'Fairfield' was constructed was acquired by the Queensland Government's War Service Homes Commissioner on 24 June 1920. The Commissioner obtained 15 acres, 3 roods and 28 perches of land, described as subdivisions 5-9 and subdivision B of resubdivision 4 of subdivision 2 of Portion 119, from widow Caroline Isabella Bowman. She had held the undeveloped acreage since 1888.

The War Service Homes Commissioner had the land subdivided into housing allotments and these were gradually sold-off during the period from 1925 through to 1969. These allotments were incorporated into a new housing estate called 'Coorparoo Heights' Estate. But one block, being Lot 26, was retained by the Commissioner for the purposes of erecting an Anzac cottage for a disabled returned serviceman and his family. This Anzac cottage was built around 1925 for returned soldier, Private James Percival Styles who gained the deed of grant to the property on 30 July 1927.

Private James Styles (service number 5193) enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 19 October 1915. He became a member of the 49th Battalion AIF, which was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half-trained reinforcements from Australia. It can be assumed that James would have been among these new reinforcements after having completed training in Australia. The 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 49th moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 21 June. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and suffered heavily, particularly in the assault launched on 3 September. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front-line duty and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, supporting the 13th Brigade's attack at Noreuil on 2 April. However by 4 May 1917, James Styles had returned to Australia. Without consulting James personal records, it can only be assumed that in the New Year Styles was wounded and discharged upon return to Australia.

After his return from Europe Styles resided at a boarding house at 18 Turbot Street, Spring Hill. From 1923 he is

listed as living in Brunswick Street, New Farm. The first mention of Styles living in Bovelleville Street is in the 1926 edition of the *Queensland Post Office Directory*. At that time, Bovelleville Street was considered to part of Coorparoo.

In June 1923 the Queensland War Council decided to use the balance in the 'Anzac Cottage' fund to build 'TB' homes. TB homes were intended for returned soldiers and sailors suffering from tuberculosis and were rented at of 8/- per week. It is not known where the idea for Anzac Cottages first came from but they appear to have been built as a community response to the losses sustained during the First World War. Many were built on donated land with volunteer labour. Only married serviceman who did not own or were not buying a home were eligible and they were required to be members of the TB Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Association of Queensland.

Homes were designed and built under the auspices of the Workers' Dwelling Branch and were of a standard type, different to Anzac Cottages, costing around ?600. The Public Trustee managed them in a similar way to Anzac Cottages. By October 1924 nine homes had been built, with 17 Bovelleville St being one of this number.

The design of the TB house shared similarities with precut homes produced by firms like Campbell's and particularly Brown & Board. Both firms were recorded as supplying materials to the Anzac Cottage scheme and produced designs which conformed to the requirements of the Workers Dwelling Act.

In 1927 the War Council agreed to build 23 more homes and terminate the scheme. However the scheme appears to have continued with proceeds from the Golden Casket in 1929 allocated towards the construction of more cottages. In 1932, the War Council passed control of the TB Homes and Anzac Cottages to the Public Curator who became the Trustee of the Anzac Cottages Trust. From this time both TB homes and Anzac Cottages appeared to have been called Anzac Cottages. The War Council was disbanded in November 1932 and the Anzac Cottage Committee ceased to exist.

An October 1938 sewerage detail map shows the house identifies as 'Fairfield' with a section of it's verandah enclosed. In 2004 this verandah has been reopened.

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

17 Bovelleville Street is important in demonstrating the pattern of Brisbane's history, built under the Anzac Cottage Scheme to provide accommodation for the families of Queensland enlisted soldiers or sailors who died in the First World War. These houses were funded with the proceeds of the Queensland lottery, draws three, four and

five.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a rare aspect of Brisbane's cultural heritage as one of only a few surviving Anzac Cottages, built under the Anzac Cottage Scheme.

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

reasons the place has a special association with the work of the Anzac Cottage Trust, a sub-committee of the Queensland War Council. It also has a special association with the Queensland lottery.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Brisbane City Council's Heritage Unit, research file
3. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
4. John Oxley Library, Births, Deaths and Marriages Indices
5. Miles, J. and Rechner, J. *Anzac Cottage "Strathearn" Conservation Plan* (Brisbane: Miles & Rechner, 2002)
6. National Archives, World War One Service Records
7. *Queensland Post Office Directories, 1868-1949*

Copyright Brisbane City Council

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 June 2022)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane