

## Heritage Citation



### Bearsden

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 10 Bearsden Avenue, Newmarket, Queensland 4051
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP110059
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — April 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber

**People/associations** John Herron (Occupant)

**Criterion for listing** (A) Historical; (H) Historical association

This house was likely constructed in the early-mid 1880s for William Gresty Billington. The house was sited in an elevated position on a large, twelve-acre block. Billington subdivided his land from 1914, ultimately releasing over 120 blocks, contributing to the early twentieth century residential development of Newmarket. In the late 1960s the house was purchased by noted Australian Liberal Party figure, Dr John Herron.

## History

Newmarket, situated on the route north to Kilcoy and Gympie, had developed with the establishment of the stock salesyard in Newmarket Road in the late 1870s. Residential development at Newmarket was further stimulated by the opening of the railway to Enoggera in 1899 and the extension of the Kelvin Grove tramline along Enoggera Road in 1903. In the early decades of the twentieth century, the area was largely a middle-class residential district which had retained a rural atmosphere.

In 1883 William Gresty Billington, resident of Enoggera and variously a warehouseman and importer, bought twelve acres of land here. In 1885 Billington raised a £1,500 mortgage, and this may have been used to build this house named 'Bearsden'. There is some evidence to suggest that the house preceded Billington, but this is not conclusive. The 1885/6 postal records show Billington living at Enoggera, listed at Wilston Street or on Enoggera Road.

In 1900, for reasons unknown, Billington advertised the house to let. The advertisement revealed a substantial five-roomed house which included, "wide verandah, kitchen, servant's room, laundry, man's room, two-stalled stable, buggy house, and seven large water tanks". It is not known whether the letting attempts were successful but certainly by the First World War Billington was in residence, the Brisbane Courier reporting his son's award of the Military Cross in 1917. He retained ownership of the entire property until he divided some of his holdings, selling 70 blocks near Enoggera Creek in 1914 as the Bearsden estate. He finally left Bearsden after a further sale in August 1926, when he disposed of a further 51 allotments, as well as his "gentleman's home" on a half-acre allotment.

The house and two blocks were bought by Herbert Cheetham, builder, and his wife Ellen Agatha Cheetham in 1926, but transferred to Ellen the following year. Herbert Cheetham was listed as living here by 1929 and Herbert and Ellen were still living here in 1941. Only Ellen was registered for this address on the 1946 electoral roll. Herbert Cheetham is known to have extended this house, including the parquet flooring and additional living areas.

The house remained in Ellen's possession until its sale in 1968 to John and Janise Herron. Dr John Herron was a Liberal Party Senator for Queensland (since 1996, resigned Jan 2001), and Federal Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. He was federal councillor for the Liberal Party from 1977-1983 and President of the Queensland division of the Liberal Party from 1980-83. Dr Herron was also prominent as a surgeon and used part of this house as consulting rooms. He is a former chairman of the Queensland Branch of the Australian

Association of Surgeons and was President of the Queensland Branch of the AMA from 1988-89. The Herron family appears to have lived here until they sold in 1988. During their occupancy the Herrons further extended the house to accommodate their large family, adding a bedroom and bathroom wing along the side, forming the courtyard at the back.

The house retains many of the features installed by previous owners, including a built-in fish aquarium under the front stair landing.

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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

as a residence constructed in the 1880s on a large property that was later subdivided for residential it is evidence of the consolidation of Newmarket as a residential suburb in the early twentieth century.

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#### 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 it was the residence of John Herron, doctor and influential politician, for twenty years.

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## References

1. Bearsden estate map, March 1914
2. *Brisbane Courier*, 14 & 16 March 1914; 29 & 31 July, 4, 5, 6 & 7 August 1926
3. *Daily Mail*, 3, 5, 6 & 7 August 1926

4. Brisbane City Council, Detail plan 1056, n.d.
  5. Queensland Certificates of Title
  6. Queensland Electoral rolls, 1941, 1946, 1970
  7. Queensland Post Office Directories
  8. *Sunday Mail*, 23 July 1989, magazine p. 54
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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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