

Heritage Citation



Beaufort Hill

Key details

Addresses At 59 Wellington Street, Clayfield, Queensland 4011

Type of place House

Period Federation 1890-1914

Style Bungalow, Queen Anne

Lot plan L3_RP69185

Key dates Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005
Date of Citation — March 2011

Construction Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

People/associations Edward Albert Hawkins (Association);
George Herbert Hopkins (Association)

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

History

This property was acquired in the name of Emily Hopkins, wife of Brisbane doctor George Herbert Hopkins, in April 1902. The family had moved into the residence, known as “Beaufort Hill” by June of the same year. Hopkins, who was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, had emigrated to Queensland in the 1890s and took up medical practice in Brisbane. After moving to Clayfield Dr Hopkins was elected a councillor in the Hamilton Shire Council between 1903 and 1906. He was also involved in the local militia as a medical officer and for a time commanded the Moreton and later the Oxley Regiments. The Hopkins resided at “Beauforte Hill” until around 1906, and apparently leased the property during 1907.

Elizabeth Elworthy, a widow, acquired the property in August 1907 and occupied it soon after. She transferred three small allotments between 1908 and 1911, and then sold the majority of the block totalling four acres, two roads and 10 perches to a relative Edward Albert Hawkins, a grazier, in 1915. The house was rented to a variety of people until circa 1923 when Hawkins moved in.

Edward (Ted) Hawkins had a garage designed by AB Wilson and erected in 1921. The brick fence and iron gates were also designed in 1924. He subdivided a portion from the property in 1925, and then in 1928 added a tower and drawing room to the main house. This wing is believed to have been part of architect GM Addison's home ‘Fernbrook’, and was moved to the site and attached to the original ‘Beaufort Hill’.

Hawkins, who had antiquarian interests and was a member of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, established a private museum at the house. During WWII the USAAF for a time used the tower as an observation platform, though Hawkins did not leave the property. Edward Hawkins died in 1956, and the contents of the house were auctioned in 1959. In 1961 the Trustees of the Order of the Eastern Star converted the house into a nursing home for aged women.

In 1993 when the property returned to private ownership it returned to use as a family home.

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 Federation era residence on a large allotment that has been subsequently subdivided.

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

it has a special association with the life or work of prominent Brisbane doctor George Herbert Hopkins, and with grazier Edward Albert Hawkins.

References

1. *Brisbane Courier*, 1864-1933
2. *The Queenslander*, 1866-1939
3. *Courier Mail*, 1933-1954
4. 'Colour Study Beaufort Hill, 59 Wellington Rd, Clayfield' Robert Riddel architect, 1993
5. Garden History Society – www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au
6. Queensland Post Office Directories
7. Queensland Title Deeds

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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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