

Heritage Citation



Bowersholme

Key details

Addresses	At 4 Aston Street, Toowong, Queensland 4066
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queen Anne
Lot plan	L3_RP50992
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — November 2013
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations Sir Arthur Fadden (Occupant)

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

This fine residence, located in a prominent position in Toowong, was constructed circa 1912 for banker Richard Shears and his wife Ada. In 1936 the property was purchased by Arthur Fadden who that same year was elected to the House of Representatives as a member for the Darling Downs. He later became leader of the Federal Country Party and was acting Prime Minister in early 1941 before becoming the Prime Minister for a brief period from August to October later that year. After Fadden died in 1973, the property remained in the family until 1988. Subsequent owners have added a swimming pool and tennis court to the property.

History

In April 1912, banker Richard Shears and Ada his wife bought this land at auction as part of a 3/4 acre block. The Shears evidently built this house immediately, as the Post Office Directories (PODs) show them living in here in Bowersholme, as it was called, from 1912-3. In 1934 Richard and Ada divided and sold a 24 perch block, and in 1936 sold the house and remaining land to (Sir) Arthur Fadden.

At the time, Fadden was a chartered accountant in Queen Street. However, in 1936 he was elected to the House of Representatives as member for the Darling Downs. He was to later become leader of the Federal Country Party, acting Prime Minister in early 1941, and then briefly Prime Minister from August to October 1941. He lost office, and the Coalition lost power when Labor obtained the support of two independent MHRs.

He became Treasurer in 1949 when the Coalition regained office, serving until 1958. Known for his “rough-and-tumble” parliamentary style, Fadden died in 1973, and this property passed to family members. It remained under trust, administered by various members of the family until 1988, when it was sold. Subsequent owners have added a swimming pool and tennis court.

It is likely the house stands upon the site of the first Toowong State School (1880). The school moved to the present site in Quinn Street, Toowong in c.1910. A newspaper article in 1998 claimed that the house had been built by a Toowoomba builder, who purchased the land and built the house for his son (presumably Richard Blake Shears) as a wedding present.

Description

An L-shaped timber Federation-style house with a corrugated iron roof, a prominent projecting wing with semi-octagonal roof and gabled bay window. A separately roofed verandah is screened with lattice and decorative arches to the front and enclosed with casement windows to the side, with timber cladding below sill level. The projecting wing is also enclosed with casement leadlight windows and small leadlight sashes above a bracketed window hood as a continuation of the verandah roof edge. Bifurcated timber stair leads to a pair of doors and

glazed sidelights at the verandah line.

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 evidence of the early growth and residential development of the Toowong area.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

For its attractive asymmetrical composition and pleasing street presentation including a complimentary fence

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 the former residence of former Australian Prime Minister and prominent Federal Country Party leader, Sir Arthur Fadden.

References

1. Alexander, Joseph A. *Who's who in Australia*, 1944
2. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
3. *Courier Mail*, 9 September 1998, p. 33
4. Davison, Graeme, John Hirst & Stuart Macintyre, *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, 1998: 237-8
5. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of Title and other records
6. Environmental Protection Agency
7. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
8. Lawson, Ronald *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*. St Lucia U of Q Press, 1973
9. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
10. Queensland Post Office Directories
11. *Sunday Sun*, 30 October 1988, Magazine
12. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*. Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994

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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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