

Heritage Citation



Rayham

Key details

Also known as	Rayllam
Addresses	At 45 Harle Avenue, Wilston, Queensland 4051
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L4_RP42634
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — February 2011
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations	Robert Smith (Robin) Dods (Architect)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association
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This timber Federation style is the former house of Austin Douglas Graham, a Brisbane solicitor. The house has been moved from its former position in Hewitt Street where it was built in 1899. The house, named 'Rayham' by Douglas, was designed by Robin Dods, a Brisbane architect from this period renowned for the 'simplicity and reticence' of his domestic designs and his imaginative reworking of traditional Queensland architecture.

History

Austin Douglas Graham was a solicitor and a partner in the legal firm of Hamilton and Graham. The firm's office was at 37-41 Adelaide Street. Graham purchased over an acre of land between what is now Harle Avenue, Hewitt Street and Jeffrey Street in 1899 and 1900. His wife, Wilhelmina, purchased another 32 perches in 1904. In 1900, Graham mortgaged the land for ?800. He is first listed in postal records as residing in *Rayham* (sometimes appearing as *Rayllam* in the directory) in 1900. This is consistent with Robin Dods designing the house in 1899.

At this time, the Wilston/Grange area was still largely rural with dairy farms and noxious industries such as fellmongeries and tanneries situated on Kedron Brook. The opening of the railway line through Windsor, Wilston and Newmarket in 1899 opened up the area for residential development. The area between Kedron Brook Road and the new railway station at Wilston was subdivided as Harle Estate in 1910. The Graham's house was one of the first to be built in Hewitt Street. Graham died in 1941.

The house is shown in its present position facing the railway line near Wilston Station on a 1934 BCC detail plan in 1934, suggesting it was moved between the late 1910s and early 1930s. During the 1950s, the house was used as flats. It has since been returned to a private residence.

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

for the evidence it provides of early residential development in Wilston following the opening of the Railway line in 1899.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as it is an intact example of a Dods house composed of simple forms and detailing, with an unconventional roof form generating an uncomplicated but visually interesting appearance.

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

for its association with Robin Dods, a notable Brisbane architect.

References

1. Brisbane History Group. *Stafford and Wilston-Grange Heritage Tour*. Brisbane: BHG, 1995
2. John Oxley Library Estate Map Collection
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Watson, Donald & Judith McKay 1994, *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia
5. Windsor and Districts Historical Society, records pertaining to Wilston

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



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