

Heritage Citation



St Ronans

Key details

Also known as	St. George
Addresses	At 38 Windermere Road, Hamilton, Queensland 4007
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Bungalow
Lot plan	L6_RP33587; L7_RP33587
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2001

Construction

Roof: Tile;
Walls: Timber

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (D) Representative

This elegant Federation Bungalow style home was constructed circa 1912 for the Eastman family. It provides evidence of the development of Hamilton as an elite suburb during the early twentieth century when many of the large estates, such as Mayfield, were being subdivided as housing allotments. This house is a fine example of Federation style architecture and has considerable aesthetic value.

History

This house in Windermere Road was built circa 1912 for the Eastman family. It was constructed on two allotments of land measuring two roods in total which was purchased by Annie May Eastman in October 1911. Postal records for 1912-13 show a Samuel H. Eastman was living at this address in Windermere Road, suggesting that the house was built circa 1912.

These allotments were part of the sale of the land around Mayfield, one of the large estates established in Hamilton/Ascot during the mid-to-late 19th century by Brisbane's wealthiest residents. Mayfield is thought to have been built for Henry Bramston in the 1870s, with later additions done for Robert Russell Smellie, of Smellie & Co. From 1896, the grounds of Mayfield were subdivided into large allotments ranging from one rood to over an acre. Smellie died in 1898, leaving the property to his daughter, Florence. The original house of Mayfield was destroyed by fire in the 1990s.

With the arrival of the tramline along Kingsford Smith Drive (then Hamilton Road) and Racecourse Road in 1899, came a boom in residential development. During this period, many fine homes were built for Brisbane's upper classes in the Ascot/Hamilton area. They were often designed by Brisbane's leading architects, such as Claude Chambers, F.R. Hall and R.S. Dods. Elegant, Federation style homes became a feature of these fashionable suburbs.

In Queensland, the Federation style was adapted to the established tradition of timber houses with wide verandahs. The result was often houses with Marseilles terracotta tiled roofs and Federation inspired detailing on verandah balustrades and fretwork. Conservation architect, Robert Riddel, has noted the art nouveau tulip motif on the fretwork on the house at 38 Windermere Road and the presence of "generous servant accommodation off the kitchen, which identifies it with the era effectively ended by World War I". The tulip-patterned fretwork appeared again in the three-storey residence, Craig Athol, in Brunswick Street, New Farm, designed by T.R. Hall. The architect of 38 Windermere Road has not been established.

After the death of Annie May Eastman in 1915, the property was purchased by Robert Toby St. George Carfeild, who named the house St. George. A later name change is shown on a 1934 BCC sewerage detail plan which names the house St. Ronans. The house was sold several times in the decades after World War II and remains in private hands.

According to the present owner, the house features Wunderlich pressed metal ceilings and originally had gas

light fittings. The Eastman family had a strong connection with the Wunderlich company.

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 the pattern of development in Hamilton during the early decades of the twentieth century when the large estates of wealthy residents were subdivided for middle and upper class suburban housing.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a fine example of a residence built in the Federation bungalow style in the early twentieth century.

References

1. Department of Natural Resources, Certificates of Title
2. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Riddel, Robert. "Sheeted in Iron – Queensland" in Trevor Howells & Michael Nicholson, *Federation Architecture in Australia 1890-1915: Toward the Dawn*. Sydney: Hale & Ironmonger, 1989

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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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