

Heritage Citation



Station Master's House (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 37 Station Avenue, Gaythorne, Queensland 4051
Type of place	Work residence
Period	World War I 1914-1918
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L1_SP262899; L2_SP262899; L3_SP262899; L4_SP262899; L5_SP262899
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — April 2000
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This timber stationmaster's residence was built in 1916 in close proximity to Gaythorne Railway Station, which also opened that year. It survives as a rare example of a stationmaster's house still located in close proximity to the railway station as most were relocated or demolished during the mid to late twentieth century. The house is also significant as a station mistresses residence from 1919 until at least the late 1930s, at a time when it was relatively rare for women to be employed in similar positions of importance. This house is now a private residence.

History

The railway line from Mayne to Enoggera opened in 1899, servicing the Newmarket saleyards and passenger traffic, and encouraging further residential development along the line. By 1914, Dayboro and Samford farmers had been agitating for an extension to Terror's Creek (now Dayboro), the Commonwealth government was keen to see an extension passing close to the Enoggera Rifle Range (and were prepared to finance it), and a degree of suburban growth had occurred beyond the Enoggera terminus.

Construction of the extension to Rifle Range Station, renamed Gaythorne in 1923, commenced in May 1915. By 9 February 1916 the progress report on construction stated that the station buildings and cottage for the stationmaster were practically complete. When the line to Gaythorne was opened on 16 February, the present shelter shed and office had been completed, along with a lamp room/closet and the stationmaster's house. Gaythorne Station had a station master-in-charge only until August 1919, when a station mistress replaced him.

Mrs Mary Moynihan occupied the house until the early 1930s, followed by Mrs Ellen Self until at least 1939. As the home of station mistresses during the 1920's and 1930's, a time when it was relatively rare for women to be employed in positions of importance, the residence makes a contribution to the understanding of women's history.

Description

This Federation style timber residence with pyramid roof was constructed circa 1916. Centrally located front stairs lead up to a front verandah that extends down both sides of the house. Slender columns that divide the facade into symmetrical bays, with simple dowel balustrades that are reflective of the era of construction. Timber lattice panels on the verandah and the timber skirt surrounding the foundation space contribute to the aesthetic Federation appearance.

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 1916 stationmaster's house that demonstrates the development of Gaythorne in the early twentieth century and the expansion of the railway system and its support infrastructure at this time; and, as a work residence that highlights the engagement of women in positions of importance in the early twentieth century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as a rare, surviving example of a timber stationmaster's house still located in close proximity to the railway station.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a substantially intact example of an early twentieth century timber stationmaster's residence still located in close proximity to the railway station.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Kerr, J. 1988, *Brunswick Street, Bowen Hills and Beyond: The Railways of the Northern Suburbs of Brisbane*, Australian Railway Historical Society - Queensland Division, Brisbane
3. Lawson, Ronald *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*. St Lucia U of Q Press, 1973
4. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
5. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*. Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
6. QSA A/8773, Railways Dept, Correspondence hard batches, 1915-20

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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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