

Heritage Citation



Tolarno

Key details

Addresses	At 118 Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101
Type of place	House, Work residence
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queen Anne
Lot plan	L118_SP102319
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — August 2011
Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic

'Tolarno' was built in 1904 for dental surgeon Charles Collins and his wife Penelope. Collins was a prominent dental practitioner, whose surgery was in the Brisbane centre of Queen Street. In 1910, this grand home was sold to Bertha Cameron, the wife of medical practitioner Dr. Malcolm Cameron. He converted 'Tolarno' into a combined doctor's surgery and private residence. In 1926, Dr. Cameron sold his practice and his home to Dr. Raymond Haynes. Dr. Leo Geraghty purchased the suburban medical practice and 'Tolarno' in 1947 and remained there until his death in 1970. A fine example of a Federation home, it features an octagonal tower, a curved verandah roof, bay windows, Art Nouveau timber fretwork brackets and large weeping figs.

History

It has the alternate address of 70 Browning Street, South Brisbane.

This large house, occupying a prominent site on the corner of Vulture and Browning Streets, has had a long association with the medical profession. Built at the turn of the century, the building has been used as a dentist's residence, and as a doctor's surgery at various times in its existence.

The land on which this house stands was bought in 1882 by Joseph Darragh. He bought this 48 perch block for £120 at an auction, being land purchased under the first section of "The Victoria Bridge Land Sales Act of 1879". Despite mortgaging the land for the large figure of £40,000, there is no evidence to suggest that Darragh constructed and building on this block. William Baynes assumed title to this land in 1891, and although he owned the block for more than ten years, he similarly did not build on it.¹

Charles and Penelope Collins bought this land from Bayes in 1904. Charles Collins was a dental surgeon whose surgery was in Queen Street in the City². Mr. and Mrs. Collins took out a bill of mortgage for £500, a month after acquiring titles to the land, and built this house. This house, named "Tolarno" was used as the Collins private residence for a few years until they sold the property in 1910.

Mrs. Bertha Cameron then bought the property. Her husband Malcolm was a medical practitioner and he utilised the premises for a doctor's surgery. Dr. Cameron worked here until 1926, when Dr. Raymond Hayes bought the property. He maintained his medical practice in the residence for many years.

Dr. Leo Geraghty bought the practice in 1947. The property stayed in his ownership until his death in 1970, when it passed to his sons. They sold it the next year to Jin, Ninko, Jimmy and Raymond Wan. The Wans are the current owners and they maintain the house as a rental property.

Although the house is in rather poor condition today, it is considered to be one of the premier residences in the South Brisbane region³.

Description

This grand residence is a Queensland adoption of the Queen Anne style. Its informally arranged terracotta tiled roof and its octagonal corner turret with finial are typical of this type of federation period building. Houses of this style were more commonly of mottled brick to give a rustic appearance, whereas this house is entirely of timber construction.

The main walls of horizontal boarding did however have staggered vertical grooves to imitate bonded brickwork, indicating the walls of the house may have been stained a darker colour originally.

The curved verandah roof is of corrugated iron unlike the main roof, indicating that the designer was not afraid to draw from common building material and yet still conform to a particular style. The verandah intricately follows the line of the external wall of the house stepping around a bay window below one of the gable ends and also around the corner octagonal tower. A portion of the verandah has been enclosed with casement windows and vertical boarding seemingly at an early stage of the building's history. The remainder of the verandah still retains much of its intricate timber detailing including a skirt of vertical timber members below the eaves line supported by Art Nouveau timber fretwork brackets to each side of the verandah posts and a handrail supported by balustrading of a similar nature to the timber skirt above, but with regularly spaced diagonally crossed members between groups of verticals. The house is raised well above the ground on timber stumps and the undercroft is screened by timber battening. All of the timber below floor level is painted black reducing its visual impact in comparison to the house above. The house is surrounded by dense vegetation including some large weeping figs, which obscure much of it from busy Vulture Street. These trees have contributed greatly to what is otherwise a harsh streetscape.

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 its continued usage as a combined suburban medical practice and private residence from 1910 to 1970.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as an intact example of a Queensland adaption of the Queen Anne architectural style.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

due to its Queen Anne style features such as a conical tower, terracotta roof tiles, bay windows, multiple verandahs, Art Nouveau timber fretwork brackets plus its picturesque garden setting.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

with its Queen Anne and Art Nouveau features plus its fine timber detailing and its curved verandah roof.

References

1. Titles Office Records
2. Post Office Directories
3. *The Courier-Mail*, June 26, 1991
4. Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert & Reynolds, Peter, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, (Sydney: Harper Collins, 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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