

Heritage Citation



Waitara

Key details

Also known as	Garth
Addresses	At 30 Liverpool Road, Clayfield, Queensland 4011
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queen Anne
Lot plan	L5_RP75060
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — March 2011
Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber

People/associations	James Stewart (Association)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (H) Historical association
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James Ernest Stewart acquired this land fronting Adelaide Street East, in 1902. A son of Alexander Stewart, James worked in the family business and was a director of Alexander Stewart and Sons Ltd, soft goods warehousemen. It was around 1905 that James Stewart built his residence on this site. Initially known as 'Garth' this large house with a tennis court was later known as 'Waitara'.

History

James Ernest Stewart acquired this land fronting Adelaide Street East, in 1902. A son of Alexander Stewart, James worked in the family business and was a director of Alexander Stewart and Sons Ltd, soft goods warehousemen. Alexander Stewart had been a partner in the long-running firm of Stewart and Hemmant, wholesale clothing manufacturers. Upon the retirement of William Hemmant, the firm became a limited liability company around 1905.

It was around 1905 that James Stewart built his residence on this site. Initially known as 'Garth' this large house with a tennis court was later known as 'Waitara'. The property was purchased in 1924 in the name of Marion Meehan, wife of Brisbane orthopaedic surgeon Dr Arthur Vincent Meehan. Meehan was a decorated WWI veteran who had lost a foot in during the war. Upon return to Brisbane, Meehan was heavily involved with the Limbless Soldiers Association and honorary surgeon to the members. His work earned him a life membership of the Association and their often and publicly stated gratitude.

Arthur Meehan was Queensland's first orthopaedic specialist. He was associated with both the Brisbane General Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae for his working life. Tragically, Arthur Meehan was brutally murdered in his Wickham Tce office in 1955.

The Meehans owned 'Waitara' until 1952 and it has passed through a number of owners. The tennis courts which were located on the Adelaide St East frontage have removed and the land subsequently subdivided.

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 large Federation-era residence in Clayfield.

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

it has a special association with the life or work of James Stewart, director of a prominent Brisbane merchant firm; and with the life and work of Arthur Meehan, Queensland's first specialist orthopedic surgeon.

References

1. <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150408b.htm>
2. <http://www.acl.org.au/national>
3. *Brisbane Courier* 1890-1933
4. *Courier Mail* 1933-1954
5. 'Uncovering a killer's past' National Archives of Australia journal "Memento", Winter, 2006
6. Queensland Post Office Directories
7. Queensland Electoral Rolls, 1903-1943
8. SLQ phot of Dr Meehan's tennis courts c1940, Neg #184674

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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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