

WELLINGTON POINT: 3 Station Street

Street Address	3 Station Street/509 Main Road, Wellington Point
GPS/RPD	Lot 2 RP107272, Lot126 RP14151 and Lot 1 RP815402
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Residence, 3 Station Street/509 Main Road, Wellington Point (AHS, 2016).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Poor
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	02/12/2016		

Historical Context

The property at 3 Station Street/509 Main Road was likely built in an early phase of Wellington Point's history, when Gilbert Burnett owned his large Trafalgar Vale Estate. Burnett was one of the first European settlers in Wellington Point. His father in law had a sugar plantation in Manly, which Burnett managed. He later gained further experience working for Richard Newton's sugar mill before becoming manager of Louis Hope's Ormiston sugar mill.[1] In 1874 after Hope returned to England, Burnett leased his milling equipment and Hope's land on the western portion of Hilliard's Creek.[2] Later taking over Murry Prior's landholdings, Burnett's estate, Trafalgar Vale, incorporated approximately 1300 acres and extended from Duncan Street to the south, Main Road to the west, Frederick and Fernbourne streets to the east before reaching the mud flats to the north.[3]

Trafalgar Vale developed as Burnett's sugar plantation, which was established by 1883. After leasing Louis Hope's Ormiston mill, and relying on South Sea Island labour, he purchased the machinery and set up another mill on the western side of Hilliard's Creek, within his estate. The new site supported a sugar mill, saw mill and bone mill, with timber used to construct dwellings and sheds associated with his industrial complex and bone used as cane mulch.[4]

As the sawmill became Burnett's focus in the mid-1880s, he entered into partnership with Brisbane businessmen to subdivide Trafalgar Vale as the Wellington Point Estate. With the extension of the railway, the estate sold well and further sub-divisions were made in the late 1880s.[5] By the late 1880s, Burnett's complex included the mill, sheds, cottages, jetties, wharves, a crane, a boiler and an 80-foot steamer, the Eucalypta.[6]

With a peak of 50 employees in 1889, Burnett's sawmill went into liquidation just two years later, and the sawmill, shed, office and several cottages were sold.[7] The house was auctioned in October 1891, with title transferred to Edward Drury. Burnett then constructed a family home near his sawmill on the western side of Hilliard's creek, near the newly constructed rail line, which was also called Fernbourne. The Burnett's continued to live at Fernbourne, where they began growing fruit. Following Burnett's death in 1925 his widow and children remained in their home, establishing a family run dairy. This house remained on Fernbourne Road until 2012 when it was destroyed by fire.[8]

It was within this context that this residence at 3 Station Street/509 Main Street was built. This site was associated with Burnett and his development of the area primarily through the sugar and timber industries. Burnett leased this property from 1875 until purchasing it in 1881. George Septimus Burnett, Gilbert's brother, acquired the property in December 1885 when Gilbert Burnett subdivided the land. It is thought the house was built by George Burnett about June 1886, when he took out a mortgage for £250. The 1890 plan drawn up by Lt. Owen shows this house existing on site at that time.[9]

George retained the property until 1895. Subsequent owners include the Abercrombie family, and Isabella Browne. The place remains as a residence today.

Physical Description

3 Station Street is a low set, timber dwelling with a short ridge pyramid roof over the core and stepped convex roof to the front and side verandahs. Much of the early fabric and decorative timber elements remain and there is little evidence of alterations. The house addresses Station Street and is set behind a low timber fence. The garden includes several established trees. The house is set on a large lot with the train line at the north. Main Road to the west is built up to bridge the train line.

Statement of Significance

The residence of 3 Station Street/509 Main Road, Wellington Point, is locally significant to Wellington Point as it has strong historical values and has special associations with the development of the Redlands area. The house is situated in the historic Trafalgar Vale Estate on land originally owned by Gilbert Burnett, and its appearance suggests its construction aligned with the formation of Burnett's sawmill industry of the 1880s. It remains an example of an early settlement house in the local area, reflecting the pattern of development in Wellington Point. The house also retains aesthetic value as it is an intact example of an 1880s residence.

Criteria A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.

This residence is significant in demonstrating the pattern of settlement in the Wellington Point area, as it is a typical example of a house built during the 1880s period. The property at 3 Station Street falls in the boundaries of the Trafalgar Vale Estate owned by Gilbert Burnett during the late 19th century. This residence is associated with Gilbert Burnett through his brother, George Septimus Burnett, who purchased the property in 1885.

Criteria E

The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.

The symmetrical and intact house in the established garden displays a modest, informal aesthetic quality. The wide street frontage, the distinct exterior form and the timber construction contribute to the aesthetic quality of the place. Additionally, the house is an example of an early residence that remains unchanged.

Primary Themes

6.0 Buildings, Settlements, Towns, Cities and Dwellings

6.04 Dwellings

References

- [1] Mary Howell, "A History of Fernbourne Precinct, Wellington Point," Grad. Dip., The University of Queensland, 1997, p. 14.
- [2] Mary Howell 'Wellington Point: History' Redland City Council, 2016.
- [3] Howell, 'A History of Fernbourne', p. 16.
- [4] Ibid., p. 17; QHR Citation 'Whepstead', 600776.
- [5] QHR Citation 'Whepstead', 600776.
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Howell, 'A History of Fernbourne', p. 31.
- [8] QHR Citation 'Whepstead', 600776; *Redland City Bulletin*, 4 September, 2012.
- [9] Woods and Bagot, Inventory of Heritage Places, "3 Station Street/509 Main Road, Wellington Point," 1995.