

WELLINGTON POINT: 6 Harris Street

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| Street Address | 6 Harris Street, Wellington Point |
| GPS/RPD | Lots 64 & 65 RP14152 |
| Place Type | Built |



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Residence, 6 Harris Street (AHS, 2016).

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

Historical Context

The property at 6 Harris Street was likely built in an early phase of Wellington Point's history, when Gilbert Burnett owned his large Trafalgar Vale Estate. Gilbert 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 were well established by 1883. After leasing Louis Hope's Ormiston mill, and relying on South Sea Island labour, he purchased the machinery and established 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 6 Harris Street, Wellington Point was built. This site was likely associated with Burnett and his development of the area of Trafalgar Vale, including the sugar and timber industries. Burnett sold this land to Catherine Quaille, wife of Henry Quaille, in July 1890. It is believed that the residence at 6 Harris Street was built c.1890, when Catherine Quaille took out a mortgage on the property. The house is not shown on Lt. Owen's 1890 map, drawn up for the Queensland Defence Force.[9] The coming of the railway to the area in 1889 made Wellington Point a popular destination for tourists. Henry Quaille utilised the residence as a rest stop for tourists, making refreshments available as well as a wagonette and horse for hire. The property was then purchased in 1895 by William Ernest Haimes, who is cited as the local telegraph operator in the postal records and held the title for 26 years. In 1922, it was purchased by G. J. Walter, a prominent Cleveland Shire Councillor. It is likely this was not Walter's residence, as he had a vast portfolio of property in the Redland Shire. On Agnes Walter's death in 1962, transfer was made to Jessie Ramsay and Christina Mitchell who may have been daughters of George and Agnes Walter.[11]

Physical Description

6 Harris Street, Wellington Point, is a low set timber dwelling with a pyramid roof to the core, and a stepped convex roof to the front and side verandahs. Parts of the side verandahs are enclosed. The exterior cladding is timber chamfer boards and the verandah walls are single skin with expressed framing. There is a hip roof extension to the rear. The brick chimney and the decorative timber elements remain. The house addresses Harris Street, behind a tall timber fence, and the garden includes several established trees.

Statement of Significance

The residence of 6 Harris Street 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 development of Burnett's sawmill industry of the 1880s. The property was likely used as a sawmill workers' residence due to its proximity to the mill site. It remains an example of an early settlement house in the local area, reflecting the pattern of development in Wellington Point. The house has aesthetic value as an early 1890s structure with its distinct form and construction.

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 good example of a house built during the 1890s. The house is historically significant as it was located within the Trafalgar Vale Estate. Later the house was used as a destination for tourists which contributed greatly to the industry and enterprise in the area.

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

The house holds aesthetic value as an early structure in the locality, dating from 1891. The house in the established garden displays aesthetic qualities through its distinct exterior form and timber construction.

Criteria H The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history.

The house situated at 6 Harris Street has a special association with the personal and working lives of some significant people who contributed greatly to the development of the Redlands area. The property is associated with Gilbert Burnett through its location in the Trafalgar Vale Estate. While Burnett himself did not reside here, it is likely that it was originally built for one of Gilbert's sawmill workers, as they lived in close proximity to the worksite. Additionally, this residence was also owned by William Ernest Haines, who was the local telegraph operator and was later purchased by prominent Redlands figure, G. J. Walter.

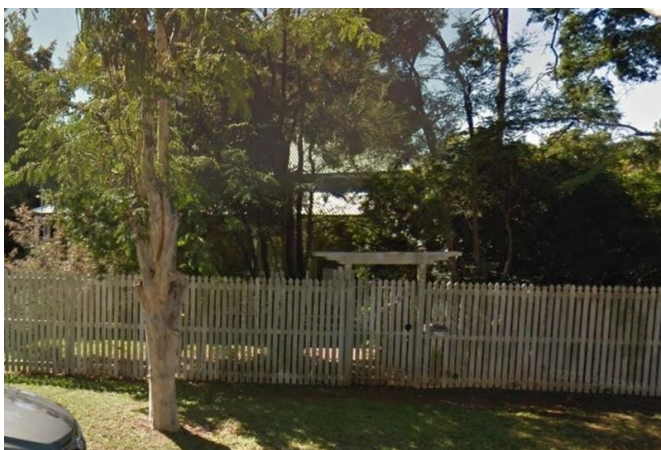
Primary Themes

6.0 Buildings, Settlements, Towns, Cities and Dwellings

6.04 Dwellings

References

- [1] Mary Howell, 'A History of Fernbourne Precinct, Wellington Point' (Grad Dip, 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] Redland City Council, "6 Harris Street, Wellington Point," Redland Shire Heritage Study 1995 Inventory of Items, 1995, p. 183.
- [10] Ibid.



Residence, 6 Harris Street (Google, 2016).