

Street Address	11 Station Street, Wellington Point
GPS/RPD	Lot 123 RP219139
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Residence, 11 Station Street, Wellington Point (AHS, 2016).

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 11 Station 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 was well 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 11 Station Street, Wellington Point was built. This site was associated with Burnett and his development of the area primarily through the sugar and timber industries. It is likely that this house was constructed in 1890, as Elizabeth Saxty took out a mortgage on this site. Saxty had married John Burnett, Gilbert’s father, prior to this and they settled here.[9]

Physical Description

This 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 walls are clad in timber chamfer boards and the verandah walls are single skin with exposed framing. There is a hip roof extension and lean to on the Station Street elevation. Much of the early fabric and decorative timber elements remain. The house addresses the rail line. There are several established trees in the garden including two large mango trees near the rail line.

Statement of Significance

The residence of 11 Station Street, 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. 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 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 11 Station Street falls in the boundaries of the Trafalgar Vale Estate owned by Gilbert Burnett during the late 19th century. 11 Station street is a historically significant example of an early house in the Wellington Point area, and is associated with the Burnett family through its location and its residents, as the father of Gilbert Burnett, who was a notable figure in the development of Wellington Point, and his wife, Elizabeth Saxty, owned this property.

Criteria E

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

The asymmetrical 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. There is evidence of adaption and extensions to suit the changing needs to the occupants.

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 11 Station Street, Wellington Point, 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 he himself did not reside here, it is connected to Burnett through its proximity to the mill site and Burnett’s father and his wife owned this property.

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, 14.
- [2] Mary Howell ‘Wellington Point: History’ Redland City Council, 2016.
- [3] Howell, ‘A History of Fernbourne’, 16.
- [4] Ibid., 17; QHR Citation ‘Whepstead’, 600776.
- [5] QHR Citation ‘Whepstead’, 600776.
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Howell, ‘A History of Fernbourne’, 31.
- [8] QHR Citation ‘Whepstead’, 600776; *Redland City Bulletin*, 4 September, 2012.
- [9] Woods and Bagot, Inventory of Heritage place, “11 Station Street, Wellington Point,” 1995.



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