

Street Address	214 School of Arts Road, Redland Bay
GPS/RPD	Lot 22 SP115509
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Mt Carmel Orchard, Redland Bay (AHS, 2016)

Condition	Fair	Integrity	Fair
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	10/01/2017		

Historical Context

The associated land for Mt Carmel Orchard was purchased initially by Ellen Matheson in 1871 and transferred to Joseph Belcher in 1880. It is likely that Belcher built the house (or part of the house) soon after his arrival in 1880. Belcher, a successful cotton grower, established himself in Ipswich in 1858 later moving to Redbank Plains, then Goodna prior to purchasing this land in Redland Bay. Joseph was a successful banana grower in the Redland Bay area and he also speculated in real estate in Brisbane. He died in 1906. His wife was reportedly the first mid-wife at Redland Bay.[1]

In 1911 the place was purchased by William Fielding snr, and transferred the property to his son-in-law, Francis White, five years later. White and his wife Jane reportedly started the Mt Carmel Orchard on the site around 1913. White had previously run a banana ripening business in Turbot Street and was a preacher at the local Baptist Church, which had been established in honour of his brother-in-law, Willie Fielding, who had drowned in 1905.[2]

White had connections with the Petrie family. The White family farm was situated adjacent to Tom Petrie’s ‘Murrumba’ Homestead on Yebri Creek. The Petrie’s were known to have experimented with a number of agricultural crops and introduced plantings on the North Pine River, including nuts, pine trees and fruit.[3]

A devout Christian, White named the orchard ‘Mt Carmel’, meaning ‘mountain of God’. However, the name is also means the zenith of fruitfulness, which is appropriate for the site. White started an avocado orchard and was the first to grow the “Fuerte” avocado commercially. He also grew custard apples, bananas, mangoes, pecan nuts, macadamia nuts, and citrus, including the Eleanor Tangor.[4]

Following the death of Francis White in 1951, the property was transferred to his widow, Jane, and sons, William and Hilary. Hilary and his family remained on the property and subdivided allotments off for their children.[5] The land was more recently subdivided (c.1990s), leaving the building in-situ within the new estate.

Physical Description

This high set home has a pyramid core roofline with hip extensions to the north and the east, giving the home an L-shaped floor plan. The roof is constructed in iron with convex stepped roof verandahs facing south and west. The exposed timber frame is double cross braced. The house has been raised and its underside filled with additional accommodation in recent years.

The original timber balustrade has been replaced with decorative cast iron panels. The external bracing over the 8-inch chamfers remains along the verandahs. Sash windows are evident with french doors leading to the verandahs. It would appear that the house has back to back fireplaces in the kitchen and living room, as well as another one under the house for the original laundry. There are some mature trees remaining on the property.

Statement of Significance	
The Belcher house is a locally significant building which embodies historical and associative values. The farmhouse was once part of the Mt Carmel Orchard, a significant local agricultural property, associated with the White and Fielding families.	
Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
As an 1880s farmhouse, Mt Carmel Orchard is important in demonstrating the early development of the Redlands, in particular the importance and prosperity that farming brought to the Redland Bay region from this time until recently.	
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 has a special association with the Belcher, Fielding and White families, who were important in the history and development of Redland Bay.	

Primary Themes	
2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land	2.04 Agricultural activities
6.0 Buildings, Settlements, Towns, Cities and Dwellings	6.04 Dwellings

References
[1] Woods and Bagot, Inventory of Heritage Places, "214 School of Arts Road, Redland Bay, Redland Bay," 1995.
[2] Mary Howells, "Places of the Redlands: Redland Bay," Redland Shire Council, 2000, p. 2-4.
[3] Australian Heritage Specialists Pty Ltd, Petrie Paper Mill, Petrie Mill Site (Stage One), Cultural Heritage Advice, (Unpublished Report), 2016. P.6
[4] Woods and Bagot, 1995.
[5] Ibid.



Mt Carmel Orchard, immediately prior to subdivision (RCC Library)