

Item Details

Name

Fairholme

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

Address

18 First Avenue SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147

Local Govt Area

Blacktown

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Built	Residential buildings (private)	House

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
18	First Avenue	SEVEN HILLS/NSW/2147	Blacktown	Unknown	Prospect	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Fairholme is a highly intact example of a Victorian Brick former small farm homestead, that is now surrounded by Modern subdivisions. The Home is associated with one of the founding families of the Seven Hills district - the Best Family, and was the residence of prominent local identity George Best after whom a number of streets are named.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The house is of historic significance to the Seven Hills district as the home of one of the founding colonial settlement families of the Seven Hills district, the Best Family, after whom a number of surrounding streets are named. The property and association reflect the historical era of small farm lets and orchards granted to emancipated convicts in the late 18th century to provide food for the growing colony. The house reflects the Victorian period of settlement in Seven Hills.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The house is associated with George Best after whom nearby streets are named, and who was also a former Shire President of Blacktown Council from 1914-1915. The Best family descended from emancipated convict George Best were a significant farming family in the district from 1796 to 1957, and operated an orchard at the site for approx. 130 years.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The house is an excellent example of late Victorian residential development now surrounded by urban development.

Highly intact exteriors, interiors and remnant plantings and outbuildings reflect the aesthetic tastes of the owner as well as the former layout of the Homestead yard, including the former alignment of the driveway.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

As a property under occupation from possibly the early 1820's, and as a family home from 1887, the site has the potential to reveal former garden layouts and driveway alignments as well as the location of former outbuildings. The intact internal fabric can also contribute to an understanding of décor and finishes of the late Victorian era.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The house is rare within the Seven Hills Shopping Centre district, and is representative as one of a sparsely located group of colonial to Victorian homesteads along the remaining colonial road networks of Seven Hills Road, Windsor Road, Blacktown Road and Best Street reflecting the colonial farms of the area.

Criteria g)

Representative

The house is a representative example of victorian filletry brick villa design.

Integrity/Intactness

Highly intact interiors and exteriors.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0		
Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer Builder/Maker

Physical Description Updated

Fairholme is a Late Victorian homestead, remaining from an era of small farms and orchards in the Seven Hills district. The property includes the homestead, an outhouse and the remnants of an avenue of Oaks from the original drive from Best Street (access to Best Street is now cut off by a c 1950 subdivision - some of the oaks remain within the adjacent land)
The building consists of a four roomed frontage with a kitchen wing and service wing to the rear. These wings have been later joined under one roof in a c 1940s re-roofing over a former external courtyard.
The cottage is surrounded by a convex verandah with banded iron roofing and victorian filletry posts.
The interior is fully intact to the original detailed finishes including ceiling linings, fireplaces and timber flooring, doors and windows.

Physical Condition Updated 01/09/2013

Good - highly intact interiors and exteriors.

Modifications And Dates

c 1940's addition of a roof over the original rear courtyard.

Further Comments

Current Use

Former Use

Listings

Listings

Records Retrieved: 2					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	l108	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

Fairholme was built by George Best prior to marrying his wife (and cousin) Alice Maud on 16 March 1887. The couple had 11 children one of which died as an infant and was buried in the grounds of Fairholme. Several of their sons were members of Central Cumberland Cricket Club and one, Dr Leslie Best, was captain of the Sydney University Cricket Club.

The Best family had been pioneering pastoralists in the Seven Hills and Toongabbie regions from 1796, when George Best (Senior) an emancipated convict was granted land along the newly established small farm areas along Windsor Road. The Best family acquired substantial land holdings and by the time of George Best's death in 1836, 3000 acres were divided between his children. Three of the Best sons established the Wagga Wagga Pastoral run.

George Best (Grandson of the colonial George Best) was born on 15 August 1855 at Oakland's to William and Susan Best. It is likely William had an orchard close to Seven Hills railway station. Chinese labourers and an Aboriginal man, Mr Saul, worked at Best's Orchard. It was within this orchard area that Fairholme was built in 1887. The orchard was referenced as being over 100 years old when advertised for sale in 1924. As such it is likely to have been part of the 3000 acres divided between the children of George Best Senior.

From 1908 to 1917, George Best was a Councillor of Blacktown Shire, serving as Shire President from 1914-1915. The Best family also donated a piece of their land for the establishment of a branch Anglican Church "Fairholme Mission Hall" in 1915 on the corner of Best and Alice Streets.

George Best died at Fairholme on 25 August 1923. Alice Maud Best died on 13 March 1940.

The Fairholme Estate was subdivided in 1924, but the area around the family home remained with the Best family until 1957.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 4

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
7. Governing	Government and Administration	Unknown
4. Settlement	Accommodation	Unknown
3. Economy	Agriculture	Unknown
2. Peopling	Convict	Pioneering and social pressures/settlement in the 19th Century

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 1

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 3

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Paul Rappoport	2008	Statement of Heritage Impact - "Fairholme" 18 First Avenue, Seven Hills	
Written	Jack Brook	2004	The Seven Hills - A Village Divided, A Suburb United	
Written				

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
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