

Item Details

Name

Dwelling 'Wiloona'

SHR/LEP/S170

Dwelling 'Wiloona'

Address

5 Main Arm Road MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

Local Govt Area

Byron

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Residential buildings (private)

Category

House

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
5	Main Arm Road	MULLUMBIMBY/NSW/2482	Byron					Primary Address

Boundary Description

Lot 6/DP 231165

Significance

Statement Of Significance

'Wilooona' at 5 Main Arm Road demonstrates the growth and development of Mullumbimby during the early part of the 1900s on the edge of the township, and hold social association with the Walker family who were prominent citizens and heavily involved in community and civic affairs and the Mullumbimby Agricultural Society. Aesthetically the house demonstrates original form, architectural style and fabric of the Federation era.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

Wilooona at 5 Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby 1911 demonstrates evidence of early settlement in Mullumbimby, as domestic dwellings built in the early part of the 20th Century. They illustrate the growth and development on the edge of the township during the early generations of the European settlement of Mullumbimby.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The dwelling holds associative significance with the Blanch and Walker families. Wilooona' at 5 Main Arm Road, was built in 1911 for Sylvester Walker (21Mar1878 Copmanhurst – 15Feb1949 Mullumbimby), prominent in community affairs, Sylvester being a former Alderman of the Mullumbimby Council and strongly involved with the Mullumbimby Agricultural Society. Patrick Walker was also living at Wilooona when he died 1941 and Sylvester in 1949.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The dwelling demonstrates aesthetic significance for its historic scale, form and materials as examples of vernacular architecture of the area.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The property does not meet this criterion.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The property is not likely to yield information of a nature which would meet this criterion.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The dwelling has a degree of rarity locally as part of a group of early residences on the edge of the township of Mullumbimby.

Criteria g)

Representative

The dwelling is representative of a Federation era dwellings in terms of scale, roof form, joinery details and fabric.

Most heritage listed residences are located within the main township in the locality of Mullumbimby. Examples located outside of the township include;

- Inverary at 130 Main Arm Road Mullumbimby a significant earlier dwelling of the late 1800s, connected to a pioneering family of the district, the Campbells.(Item I143)
- Ivy Hill Coolamon Scenic Drive Mullumbimby C1910 .This early homestead 'Ivy Hill' was built around 1910 by pioneer farmer Hugh McD. Livingston.(Item I131)

Integrity/Intactness

The dwelling appears largely intact in terms of its historic form.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated 11/15/2022

This historic dwelling has a high pitched hipped gambrel roof with of symmetrical form and traditional proportions with a centry entry and wrap around bullnose verandah. The verandah is partially enclosed to the eastern side.Weatherboard cladding to walls. Timber posts and decorative curved brackets and valance boards to verandah. Painted in a traditonal colour scheme. Adjoins Chinbible Creek to the rear boundary. Extensions to rear.

Physical Condition

Updated 11/15/2022

Inspected from road reserve.

Modifications And Dates

Reroofed with a green colorbond steel roof.

Further Comments

Appears largely in original form.

Current Use

Dwelling

Former Use

Dwelling

Listings

Listings

					Records Retrieved: 1
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Potential Heritage Item		I202			

Procedures/Exemptions

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

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

11/15/2022 4:51:45 PM

The town of Mullumbimby is built substantially on a reserve of one square mile that was created in 1872 as a site for a village at the confluence of the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Creek. The village was proclaimed in 1887 and the first land sales in the village occurred in the following year. The first signs of commerce appeared in the village in the late 1880s. However the impetus for growth occurred in 1894 when the Tweed Railway was built and a station was constructed on the eastern side of the village. The town developed on both sides of the railway although most commercial activities and the preponderance of housing was built in the area bounded by the railway on the east and the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Creek on the north, west and south.

The court house at Mullumbimby was built in Dalley Street, commencing in 1907. It was one of several of the town's substantial buildings and one which survives in its original form, although it has been extended several times. In 1908, as the Court House was completed, Mullumbimby was incorporated as an area of Local Government. The population of the

town was then 907 people. Over the following decades the place grew into a substantial town with two storey hotels and banks on the principal corners. The Memorial Hall, built in 1929 at the same time as the Byron Shire Council Chambers in Byron Bay, is one of the most substantial buildings of the era.

By WWII, when the town had its own power and water supplies, the population had grown to 2000. Byron Shire council provided (sold) power and water and also white goods, from the showroom it built in Dalley Street in 1954.

Timber and dairying were the commercial mainstays of the town. Bananas and sugar cane have contributed also to the primary output. As a rural centre and seat of local government, selling power and water to nearby communities outside the town boundaries, the town has maintained steady prosperity which is reflected in the building stock of the town, despite periodic fires that have been responsible for the destruction of some of the former buildings of note. Substantial development occurred in the town after WWII, including the construction of many houses and commercial buildings, sometimes as replacements of timber buildings that were destroyed by fire, with uninspiring brick structures.

This Item

The following information was provided by Brunswick Valley Historical Society:

Early Selectors of Suburban Lots Mullumbimby

Patrick Walker acquired James Davidson's 80 ac block, portion 5, Parish of Mullumbimby in Mar 1908, with the subsequent addition of various adjacent lots within the suburban lands of the Village of Mullumbimby. After building the new homestead 'Belmont', he passed the lot to son Billy ~1911 and allegedly retired to 'Bellevue' on Chinbible Creek, on the corner of Main Arm Road and Murwillumbah Road/Coolamon Scenic Drive.

He had acquired lots 201, 202, 281 and 122 ~1906. It is understood that 'Bellevue' was erected in 1908/09, shortly after he acquired the four lots totaling ~12ac near Davidson's bridge over Chinbible Creek. But there is a suspicion that 'Bellevue' was in fact pre-existing on lot 202 and moved to lot 122 after the 3 lots on the right bank of the creek were passed to son Sylvester, whose new home, 'Wilooona', was completed on lot 202 in May 1911.

'Bellevue' was likely erected by Hector Thomas Blanch (1866 Grafton – 1951 Nambour), who had been the first selector in 1903 when he turned up from Alstonville to open a coachbuilding and wheelwright business, later branching out as a builder, erecting the Billinudgel Anglican church in 1907 amongst other things. It's possible he moved and re-erected 'Bellevue' for Patrick Walker as part of the sale contract? (The sale was probably sometime in 1909 when Hector acquired 160 acres at Eudlo, near Nambour, to take advantage of the more liberal land laws of the Sister State. He was farewelled from Mullumbimby in Jan 1910 to start a new career as a farmer).

Patrick Walker's son Sylvester built a new home 'Wilooona' on the centre block in 1911.

Auctioneer Syl Walker's handsome new villa residence, on an admirable site..., is now in occupation by that gentleman (wef May 1911). In the building are 7 rooms – two bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, bath-room and pantry - all of large dimensions..., and another building which stood there has been removed and re-erected, probably erected by previous owner H.T. Blair who acquired lots 201 and 202 in 1903.

Sometime prior to his death, Patrick moved in with Sylvester, probably after the death of housekeeper Mrs North in 1936?)

Also in the property portfolio were 8 lots acquired in the Livingstone subdivision of 1905. He sold 6 of these lots 1911 and retained the 2 largest on Prince Street, near Ann Street.

In Jan 1918 he also acquired a building in Dalley Street that became the Municipal Council Chambers leased at a rental of 8s per week in Mar 1918 until the new edifice opened in Jun 1934. What is now known as 'Palm Avenue' opposite Sylvester's property was known as 'Walker Street' until Feb 1966. It is known that in 1986 Miss Emily Hopf was the occupant of one of these ex-Walker houses. She died 10 Apr 2005, aged 97.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 0

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
No Results Found		

Recommended Management

Management Summary

The building should be carefully conserved in an appropriate setting .

Any future alterations should be confined to areas of low or no significance, and works shall be in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter, Council and relevant planning policies for heritage conservation.

Reconstruction of the front verandah with the gable to the centre in accordance with the historic image is encouraged.

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 0

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
No Results Found					

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	BVHS	2021	Bellevue and Wiloona	
Written		1949	Obituary S.T. Walker	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/194569172

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Byron Shire Council	6000395

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