23 Allan Street, Nelson

C ranked heritage item in the operative NRMP
Category 2 historic place on the HNZPT List [# 2999]

Lot 1 DP 1820 Pt Sec 1079A


[AE McEwan, 17 Sept 2015]

Building permit to erect a residence dated 16 January 1941 – for owner GS Field of 9 Collingwood Street, lodged by HR Beatson. Role of Beatson in relation to the permit is not specified on the application form.

Henry Reynolds Beatson (1881-1953) was a Wakatu builder and farmer; he appears to have lodged the building permit as the contractor, rather than the designer. Although the wider Beatson family had several architects amongst its members there is no evidence to establish that HR Beatson can be credited with the design of the Field house.

Concrete foundations, wood & plaster walls, slate roof, building cost £1950. Space heater installed in c.2008; internal alterations undertaken in 2016.

Godfrey Spence Field (1905-94) attended Nelson College 1918-20 – later a farmer in Stoke. Married Margaret Isabelle Suckling in 1932. Occupation was given as dental surgeon when he purchased the property from Dorothy Allan in September 1940.

Assessment: the building has a typical rather than notable history and is an attractive character home rather than a significant historic heritage resource. The HNZPT summary report confuses Margaret Suckling with another woman of that name who was *born in 1920 and trained as a nurse in Rotorua and Hamilton in the late 1930s and* early 1940s. *The report* suggests that the house has significance because the Fields may have been members of the Exclusive Brethren church*, although there is no evidence to support this claim*.

Recommendation: Delete. There is insufficient evidence to support scheduling on the proposed Nelson Plan.

Dr Ann McEwan
Heritage Consultancy Services

3 September 2020 [*italicised text added 12 April 2024*]

Assessment according to the heritage criteria:

Historic And Social Significance
The former Field house is not associated with a notable person or event and has limited historic and social value as the former home of a Nelson dentist and his family.

Cultural And Spiritual Significance
The former Field house has limited cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a Nelson medical professional and his family.

Architectural And Aesthetic Significance
The former Field house has limited architectural value as an English Arts and Crafts house dating to the early 1940s. The building is not a significant example of its style. The designer is unknown.

Technological And Craftsmanship Significance
The former Field house has modest craftsmanship value as a mid-20th century dwelling presumably built by HR Beatson using the methods and materials of the day.

Archaeological Significance
The site of the former Field house has potential archaeological value given the earlier development of the property by the Allan family.

Scientific Significance
The former Field house may have minor scientific value for its potential to provide further information about its design and construction.

Group, Landmark And Contextual Significance
The former Field house has some contextual value as a building that contributes to the historic character of Nelson South and can be seen from some distance thanks to its elevated site.

Summary Statement
The former Field house dates to the mid-20th century and was built for a local dentist and his family. It does not meet the criteria for scheduling and information supplied by HNZPT, which is intended to substantiate its heritage significance, confuses the identity of Margaret Isabelle Field (nee Suckling) with another woman of that name and relies heavily on speculation about the designer and a possible connection between the Fields and the Exclusive Brethren Church.

Recommendation
Delete this item from Appendix 1 as it does not meet the heritage assessment criteria.

References:
Nelson Evening Mail 15 January 1918, p. 5; 23 January 1934, p. 4.
Inangahua Times 1 February 1918, p. 2.
NZ Herald 5 December 1928, p. 12.
Auckland Star 4 June 1931, p. 7; 12 December 1938, p. 14; 12 March 1943, p. 5. [Last two items refer to another Margaret Suckling who was training to be a nurse in Rotorua and Hamilton at the time.]
Land Information NZ, Street Directories and Electoral Rolls.
Nelson College Roll; available online.

Review date: 12 April 2024