

Liberty Square



Shane Stone (Mayday 1996)

"Liberty Square

Liberty Square is the site of the "Darwin Rebellion" of the 17th December 1918 when several hundred residents marched on Government House to demand the removal of the Administrator, Dr JA Gilruth from the Northern Territory.

This followed growing frustration among the citizenry with the Commonwealth Government Administration which had taken over responsibility for the Territory in 1911.

The rebellion has been cited as second only to the Eureka Stockade in 1854 in its open defiance of Government authority."

After giving some details of Gilruth's departure, the plaque then goes on to conclude:

"Liberty Square commemorates the commencement of the Territory's battle for self-rule and full membership of the Federation of Australia."

Shane L Stone 1st May 1996

Alcorta (Unions not "citizenry")

"It was the union that became the most effective opposition to the sweeping powers vested in the new Administrator, J.A Gilruth."

Frank Alcorta, 1980 *Labor in the Northern Territory: A Decriptive Account of the 1913 Strike*. Northern Perspective, Volume 4 Number 2: pp9-13