

Heritage Citation



Concrete Block Residence

Key details

Addresses	At 335 Honour Avenue, Graceville, Queensland 4075
Type of place	Shop/s
Period	Postwar 1945-1960
Lot plan	L66_RP72641
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — February 2004
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls
People/associations	Walter Taylor (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(B) Rarity; (F) Technical; (H) Historical association

History

Brisbane City Council records state that an application was received by Walter Taylor for a new shop in December 1947. Sources indicate that Taylor had a business association with the locality as in August 1945 he had applied to construct a dwelling of concrete in Rakeevan Street for the given cost of £880/-/-. Taylor was also responsible for the residence constructed on the site.

Walter Taylor was born in Sheffield England in 1872. His family had emigrated to Australia when he was ten years old. Walter worked for the railways in Queensland until 1902 when he returned to England to market some inventions. He returned to Australia in 1912, having spent much of his time overseas studying methods of reinforced concrete construction and use of coke breeze block and brick.

In Queensland, Walter undertook construction contracts with many leading architects, building such structures as Trittons furniture warehouse at North Quay; Brisbane Newspaper Company bulk stores at William and Margaret Streets; warehouse and offices for Hooper & Harrison Ltd, G Smith Esq, Hoey Fry Ltd, and Gordon and Gotch. He also built the nine story Craigston Flats in Wickham Street; No 2 Block and the Nurses Quarters at the Brisbane General Hospital; RSL Club in Elizabeth Street; Tristram's Aerated Water Factory at South Brisbane; and the Breakfast Creek Bridge, Albion.

Walter Taylor realised the growth and commercial potential of the Graceville-Sherwood area during the interwar period, and immediately beyond, and constructed this shop to cater for local clientele. In this district he constructed two residences on Austral Ave, the Central Buildings at 327 Honour Ave (which contained shops and his own office), the shop and residence at 335 Honour Ave, and a bulk store for his prefabricated concrete blocks at 11 Rakeevan Rd. He also designed and built the Graceville Methodist Church, and two homes for himself, at 15 Molonga Tce and 95 Banks Rd.

He is probably best known for the 1936 Walter Taylor suspension bridge that crosses the Brisbane River at Chelmer, which he both designed and constructed. Taylor was heavily involved in the administration of the Methodist Church in Queensland for almost fifty years, and also in community work. He was president of the Graceville Progress Association and the Indooroopilly-Chelmer Centenary Memorial Bridge League. An inventor, designer and builder, Taylor was also an accomplished bookbinder, exhibiting in Brisbane in 1924 in conjunction with Lloyd Rees.

Novex Dry Cleaners were located in the building and the current occupant is Mr Spots Dry Cleaners.

Description

These structure presents as a purpose built 1940s single-story commercial building constructed of masonry, located on a corner position. A modest parapet extends along both street frontages. The structure's design is intended to provide the maximum exposure to the busy Honour Ave, while utilising the most of the available space on the site.

The Rakeevan Street frontage reveals a small extension on the rear of the building. Possibly added during c1969

when an application was made to, and subsequently approved, by Brisbane City Council.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage due to the rarity of buildings constructed in this particular manner, with the use of concrete blocks.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period
as an existing example of Walter Taylor's experiments in building with concrete, and the design of his concrete blocks.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history
as a result of the building's association with the notable engineer Walter Taylor.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Card Records
 2. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
 3. Brisbane City Council Department of Works Building Registers 1925-1945
 4. Certificates of Titles, Department of Natural Resources and Mines
 5. Lewis, Miles. *Australian Building – a Cultural Investigation*. “Cement & Concrete: Forms & Structures” at 7.08.13 (Copy undated)
 6. *Walter Taylor South Character and Heritage Study*, BCC Heritage Unit, 1997
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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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