

Heritage Citation



Devon

Key details

Also known as	Willcocks' Houses
Addresses	At 32 Moreton Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Composite
Lot plan	L3_RP8672

Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — October 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry - Render
People/associations	Claude William Chambers (Architect); George Charles Willcocks (Association)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This two-storey dwelling was designed by renowned Brisbane architect Claude William Chambers and built in c1895 for George Charles Willcocks, a successful railway contractor. It was one of four identical houses built adjacent to each other on Moreton Street as rental investment properties to attract middle class tenants. Known as “Willcocks’ Houses”, they exemplified Brisbane’s late nineteenth century speculative housing development. The first tenant was G.C.D. Forster, partner of McLennan & Co, machinery, hardware, iron and metal merchants. The house was originally called ‘Devon’. The property was owned by Willcocks’ wife from 1895 to 1919, and subsequently transferred to William and Edith Mary Nicolson. This masonry dwelling reflects the flamboyant style of the period, which includes a composite of Victorian Filigree and Victorian Italianate styles.

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:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as a fine example of a late nineteenth century purpose-built rental investment to attract professional middle-class tenants that was constructed when New Farm was experiencing significant residential development with the subdivision of large estates.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as one of four identical, asymmetrical, 1890s two-storey masonry houses which individually and collectively form a highly-cohesive visual group.

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 one of a group of four houses designed by renowned Brisbane architect Claude William Chambers.

Supporting images



Photographer unknown,
'Houses in Moreton Street, New Farm, ca. 1904',
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

'Devon' is the second property from the left of the image.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Properties on the Web
2. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
3. Brisbane City Council, Sewerage Maps, Detail Plan No 168, 18 June 1925
4. Brisbane City Council, Surveyor's Notebook, Moreton St, 12 Dec 1924
5. Musgrave, Elizabeth and Kaylee Wilson, *New Farm and Teneriffe Hill Heritage and Character Study*, Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Oct 1995
6. Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland Certificates of Title.
7. Queensland Post Office Directories, 1897-99; 1901; 1921-22
8. Picture Queensland, Queensland State Library, see Image No 86414, Devon, the home of the Purkiss family at 32 Moreton Street, New Farm, 1991; see also Image No 141763, Houses in Moreton Street, New Farm, c1904
9. Bennett, H, 'New Farm from quality street to mixed assortment', *Brisbane Houses, Gardens, Suburbs and Congregations*, Papers No 22 Brisbane History Group, 2010 pg 151-175
10. Ivan McDonald Architects, 'Devon: 32 Moreton Street, New Farm, External Colour Scheme', 2009
11. Benjamin, G. & G. Grant, *Reflections on New Farm*, New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc, New Farm, 2008
12. Watson, Donald & Judith McKay 1994, *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia
13. Summer, Ray, *More Historic Homes of Brisbane*, National Trust of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 1982
14. Jenkins, E, 'Historic Showcase of Stombucco work', *Sunday Mail*, 31 January, 1999
15. New Farm and District Historical Society, NF & DHS Newsletter, Nov 2001
16. *Queenslander*, advertisement, 5 June 1897
17. *Brisbane Courier*, 12 July 1901

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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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