

Heritage Citation



Letty Katts Residence

Key details

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| Addresses | At 12 Gizeh Street, Enoggera, Queensland 4051 |
| Type of place | House |
| Period | Interwar 1919-1939 |
| Style | Composite |
| Lot plan | L1_RP47689 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — January 2004 |
| Construction | Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Masonry |
| People/associations | Letty Katts (Occupant) |

This interwar residence was built circa 1925 for Lucretia Katts, her husband Anton, and their daughter Violet, also known as 'Letty'. Letty Katts went on to become a pioneer of Australian song writing in the 1940s and 50s and composed most of her music around Australian themes. Two of her best-known ballads were *Never Never* (1945) and *A Town Like Alice* (1956). Letty lived in this house with her parents until the mid-1940s, however it remained in the possession of her family until 1975. The house is an unusual example of interwar architecture, combining a number of different style elements to form a pleasing and unusual design.

History

In 1920 the War Service Homes Commissioner bought an eight acre parcel of land from James Ferguson. This block, bounded by the present Samford Road, Gizeh, Cairo and Imbros Streets, was subdivided into 34 blocks. Lucretia Katts bought the first two blocks in May and November 1925 and evidently built this house immediately. In 1930 most of the second block was sold to Harry Phillips, who also built promptly and lived here until after 1939.

Gizeh Street (sometimes spelt Gezal Street) is first listed in the postal records for 1926. Anton Katts lived here from 1926 until at least 1939, with his wife Lucretia Pimblett whom he married in 1921 and Violet, a music teacher (probably shortened to Letty).

Letty Katts was a composer of popular music, mainly piano, from the 1940s until the 1970s. Much of her published work pursued Australian themes - the *Never Never*, *Overlanders*, *A Day in the Bush*, and *West of the Great Divide* characterise her song titles across several decades. Probably Katts' best known work is the music and words of the title song for the 1956 film *A Town Like Alice*, starring Peter Finch and Virginia McKenna.

Katts lived here until the mid 1940s, and her family remained in the house until at least the late 1960s, probably until their sale of the property in 1975.

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

for the evidence it provides of the residential pattern of development in the Enoggera area in the interwar period.

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 the former residence and childhood home of Violet 'Letty' Katts, a pioneer of Australian song-writing.

References

1. Queensland Title Deeds
2. Queensland Post Office Directories
3. Brisbane City Council Detail plan 1563, 30 April 1954
4. Information from Music Unit, State Library of Queensland
5. Queensland Electoral Rolls, 1941, 1946, 1967
6. Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages

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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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