

Heritage Citation



3 Cou tts Street, Bulimba

Key details

Also known as	Sally Lorette
Addresses	At 3 Cou tts Street, Bulimba, Queensland 4171
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Bungalow
Lot plan	L5_SP167770
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — January 2003

Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Isabella Dobson (Occupant)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This large, interwar Bungalow style house was built between 1919 and 1922 for Isabella Margaret Dobson and her husband Cecil, at a time when Bulimba was becoming established as a residential area. Isabella Dobson was the daughter of shipwright, Councillor and Queensland State Parliamentarian John Watson, and was a well-known socialite in Brisbane at the time. The house remains as a fine example of an interwar timber and tile house and, makes a very pleasing contribution to the streetscape.

History

Bulimba had started out as a farming community and experienced its first wave of residential and commercial development in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The economic downturn of the 1890s in combination with the floods of 1893 stifled progress somewhat, the floods in particular discouraging buyers from considering the area. The population level continued to grow steadily, however.

During the 1920s and 30s the district began to become established as a residential area as earlier subdivisions became more built upon and the population density increased. Contemporary photographs show that, while much land was still used for rural purposes, clusters of houses on residential blocks were becoming more common. More services were established for the growing community and industrial development in the area that became more prevalent.

This large, fine, interwar southern style bungalow was built between 1919 and 1922 for Isabella Margaret Dobson and her husband Cecil Geoffrey Dobson. Isabella Dobson nee Watson was the daughter of shipwright, Balmoral Shire Councillor and later Queensland State Parliamentarian John Watson.

Dobson began to acquire property at the corner of Coutts and Oxford streets in 1912, and in 1919 had gained enough land to build a large imposing house that would dominate the street corner. The house itself was constructed sometime between 1919 and 1922. Post office directories show the Dobsons living in the house by 1922.

This house was built at the same time as the nearby Bulimba Ferry terminal.

At some time the house was named "Sailly Lorette" and this name appears on sewerage plans made by council in 1958. Sailly Lorette is a town in France that was an allied objective during the battle of Amiens in August 1918. A feature of this battle was a significant contribution by Australian troops. Why the house was given this name is presently unknown.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Dobson was a well-known socialite and even entertained General Douglas MacArthur at the house on one or more occasions.

The house has since been relocated further to the rear of the original parcel of land and a new dwelling constructed on the corner of the block. While moved from its original setting, the house still retains significant architectural and aesthetic qualities.

Description

This large interwar home with a tiled roof and nested gables incorporates Californian bungalow and Federation style features.

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 substantial house constructed during the interwar period when Bulimba was becoming established as a residential area.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a fine example of a middle- to upper-class timber and tile house built in the Queensland idiom between the World Wars.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an attractively designed interwar house that makes a very pleasing contribution to the streetscape of Coutts Street.

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 home of Isabella Dobson, socialite and daughter of a Queensland State Parliamentarian.

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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