

Heritage Citation



4 Jerdanefield Road, St Lucia

Key details

Also known as	Forrest Residence
Addresses	At 4 Jerdanefield Road, St Lucia, Queensland 4067
Type of place	House, Work residence
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Mediterranean
Lot plan	L1_RP92699
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — June 2000

Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Masonry - Render
People/associations	Lucas and Cummings (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (F) Technical; (H) Historical association

This attractive, Interwar Mediterranean style house was designed by prominent architects F.B. Lucas and R. Cummings circa 1937-38 for Philip Forrest. The house was considered to be of such high-quality design that in 1939 the architects received an award for 'meritorious architecture' in the City Division from the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. In 1948, the house was purchased by the Brisbane City Council and converted for use as a work residence for overseas staff as part of a post World War II overseas recruitment scheme that lasted until around 1957. The building has since been returned to a single, private dwelling.

History

The land on which this apartment block is constructed was acquired by Philip Forrest when it became available in April 1937. At the time of purchase the property stood at just over 2 roods and six perches in size. The availability of this land also allowed the creation of Jerdanefield Road.

Forrest must have had a reasonable amount of capital available to him as the title deed shows no registered mortgage. He engaged the architectural firm Lucas and Cummings to design a substantial house. Evidence indicates that this dwelling was erected during the late 1937 - early 1938 period.¹ However, the house was definitely erected by October 1939.

In 1939 the dwelling received an award for 'meritorious architecture' - City Division - from the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. This was the inaugural year of the awards and it was available 'for outstanding examples of domestic architecture during the last five years.' The award was established 'to encourage a higher standard of architecture in Queensland in both metropolitan and country work.'

The architectural practice of F.B.Lucas and R.Cummings was founded in 1936. While the practice only survived for a relatively short period, of this partnership it was stated:

Lucas and Cummings' potential as practioners' of architecture was never fully realised due to the economic depression and World War II which followed shortly after and severely affected their opportunities.²

However, their skill in the design and construction of the Forrest house, attributing the style as being very similar to the domestic work of Leslie Wilkinson, Professor of

Architecture at Sydney University, was recognised with the award. Lucas and Cummings both continued on to

design a of number buildings in conjunction with their academic careers. They again won the award in 1949 for their design of the Christian Science Church located at North Quay.

Lucas and Cummings were central in the development of the profession in Queensland, through their involvement in the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and in the tertiary development of the profession, and with their work in establishing Diploma and Degree courses and Chair of Architecture at the University of Queensland.

The wider Toowong area during the interwar period saw a number of smaller subdivisions created from the sale of land attached to the earlier residences that were usually set upon larger allotments. This particular building is a late example of the interwar development that occurred.

In 1948 the Brisbane City Council purchased the house from Forrest for the sum of £8,625/0/0. The reason for the purchase was described as,

(T) the provision of suitable accommodation for overseas appointees to the Council's staff has necessitated the acquiring of certain buildings...(the dwelling was described as)...a substantial two-storeyed brick structure in first-class condition with a basement and lends itself to conversion into five flats. The land has also been highly improved and extensive retaining walls have been constructed along the river frontage.³

The cost of the conversion was estimated at £1500/-/-.

After World War II Australia experienced a population growth as the Commonwealth government embarked on a 'vigorous immigration program.' For example the population of Brisbane is reputedly to have increased between 1939 and 1955 by 189,000. Brisbane City Council also utilised such a scheme for attracting the employees it required and this property was one of those purchased and renovated to accommodate the selected employees. The Brisbane City Council sold the building in 1957 to Thomas Duncan.

Description

This building could best be described as exhibiting the Mediterranean Style Modernism of the Leslie Wilkinson School (Bruce Lucas had studied at the recently established Sydney University Architecture School under Wilkinson). This style relied on strongly massed buildings of simple cubic volumes, with rendered walls and pitched terra-cotta tiled roofs. Lucas and Cummings designed this building taking into consideration Brisbane's sub-tropical climate and provided generous eaves and window hoods. Of note are the North-east facing walls of the building defining a courtyard to the river side of the building. Strong horizontal lines are generated in this design by the use of unbroken eaves lines and a continuous concrete hood shading openings on the lower level.

External openings are regularly placed and aligned between the floors. Shuttered windows and doors used in this design are typical of Wilkinson's work. Lucas and Cummings designed double hung windows with horizontal mullions only, in contrast to the multi-paned windows of Wilkinson's houses.

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 residence which was selected and altered to be used as accommodation for overseas appointees to Brisbane City Council's staff as part of a Post World War II overseas recruitment scheme.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a relatively rare and attractive example of an architect-designed Interwar Mediterranean Style house.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period

as a residence which won the inaugural award for meritorious architecture awarded by Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1939.

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 an award winning residence that was designed by the influential and important Brisbane architects, F.B. Lucas and Robert Cummings.

References

1. This is an estimate date as the BCC Building Register for the period April 1937 until Dec 1938 is missing
2. Margaret Lawrence-Drew, *Lucas and Cummings Architects*. Unpub Thesis 1986. Bachelor of Architecture. University of Qld. p 72
3. *Reports and Proceedings of the Brisbane City Council During the Period 1 July 1948 - 30 June 1949*. p 42
4. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
5. *The Courier Mail*. 10 October, 1939
6. Certificates of Title.
7. Greenwood, Gordon. *Brisbane 1859-1959 A History of Local Government*. Council of the City of Brisbane, Brisbane, 1959
8. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
9. Lawrence-Drew, Margaret. *Lucas and Cummings Architects*. Unpub Thesis 1986. Bachelor of Architecture. University of Qld
10. Lavery, John. 'John Beals Chandler: The little man at City Hall'. *Brisbane: Corridors of Power*. Brisbane History Group. Papers No.15 - 1997
11. Post Office Directories - various years from 1930 - 1941
12. *Reports and Proceedings of the Brisbane City Council*. (Minutes) - 1948-1950
13. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994

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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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