

Heritage Citation



51 Norman Parade, Clayfield

Key details

Also known as	Kilcreggan, Glendalough
Addresses	At 51 Norman Parade, Clayfield, Queensland 4011
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L2_RP34173
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — January 2004

Construction

Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

People/associations

David Graham Macfie (Occupant);
David McFie (Builder);
Frank McDonnell (Occupant);
John Leahy (Occupant)

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

Initially named 'Kilcreggan,' this fine timber residence was constructed circa 1897 for David Graham Macfie, then Managing Director of the Australian Mines Agency Company. The ornately designed house proved to be a desirable address for professional middle class residents in the early twentieth century as it was also later occupied by MLAs John Leahy and Frank McDonnell and medical practitioner James McEnroe. The house has been restored and now functions as a retirement home.

History

Research indicates that this property was erected in c1897 for David Graham Macfie, Managing Director of the Australian Mines Agency Company. The property was initially called Kilcreggan, likely after the town situated on the Roseneath Peninsula, Scotland.

The residence subsequently had a number of notable occupants. This included John Leahy M.L.A, who rented the residence in c1901. Leahy was the director of Queensland Meat Export Agency Co and Manager of the Australian Estates and Mortgage Company. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and President of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce in 1907. Leahy was the sitting member of Bulloo during 1893-1909, Secretary for Railways & Public Works, 1901-03 and Speaker of the House 1907-09. He resided at Kilcreggan until 1907. Daniel Gallgher then occupied the house.

In c1908 James McEneroe, medical practitioner, obtained the property. In c1912 the property again changed hands when Frank McDonnell acquired it. McDonnell was a founder of the notable Brisbane retail store McDonnell and East. McDonnell was M.L.A for Fortitude Valley (1896-1907) before entering the Legislative Council. McDonnell and his wife lived at the property until his death in c1929. Mary McDonnell remained in the house until 1936 when it was sold to William and Hester Young.

As is the case today, the suburbs of Ascot, Hamilton, and Clayfield were sought after residential addresses within nineteenth century Brisbane. During the latter decades of the nineteenth century, the Clayfield area became home to several wealthy families who established fine residences on large estates, for example Whytecliffe, built for John Petrie in 1875, Bayview built for the Huttons, and Tarranalma, constructed in 1890 for James Milne. "The Residence" is an existing representative example of the nineteenth and twentieth century desirability of those members within the higher social stratum of Brisbane to reside in a suitable residence and location that reflected their position in society. The home is now restored and functions as a retirement home. Now called "The Residence."

Description

This former residence presents as a late nineteenth century grand gentleman's residence in the Queensland colonial/early Federation style.

The structure is of timber (chamfer boards) with a tin roof. The verandah roof is separate to the main roof structure. The separate verandah and main aspect roofline is highlighted by the use of decorative eaves brackets. The semi-octagonal protruding verandah is highlighted at ground level by a pyramid shaped extension of the main roof over this portion of the residence. This feature, together with a shaped verandah encompasses the living room protrusion onto the verandah.

The offset main entry stairs facilitates an aesthetic presentation, which visually compensates for the asymmetrical appearance of the residence from the street. The original verandah was "L" shaped with a step-out on the eastern side. The rear of the residence has had later extensions.

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 an example of a substantial residence built in Clayfield in the late nineteenth century when the area was emerging an elite suburb.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a notable example of a transitional residence exhibiting the Queensland colonial and federation styles of

architecture.

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 residence was occupied by a number of notable and influential local, Brisbane and Queensland identities including David Graham Macfie, John Leahy and Frank McDonnell.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Detail Plan. No: 462. 5 March 1936
 2. Queensland Certificates of Title
 3. Garlock, Grace. "Mansion's New Role as Village", *Sunday Mail Magazine*. 19 February 1989. pp.30 & 31
 4. "Gracious Surrounds at "The Residence", *Sunday Mail Magazine*. 15 October 1989. p.42
 5. Howes, Ted. "Doves of Peace in Home for Aged", *Sunday Sun: Sun Magazine*. 4 September 1988. p.58
 6. "Residence Splendor Restored." *Courier Mail*. 2 November 1989.p.30
 7. Springthorpe, Margot. "Retirement gets its own special style", *Sunday Sun: Sun Magazine*. 17 June 1990. p.43
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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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