

Heritage Citation



8 Rakeevan Road, Graceville

Key details

Addresses	At 8 Rakeevan Road, Graceville, Queensland 4075
Type of place	House
Period	Postwar 1945-1960
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L2_RP72641
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — November 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls
People/associations	Walter Taylor (Architect)

This house was completed in 1946 and was constructed using an unusual system of precast concrete blocks developed by notable Brisbane builder Walter Taylor. This system was used by Taylor to construct a limited number of nearby buildings most notably the Graceville Methodist Church. The blocks were stored in bulk at his depot at 11 Rakeevan Road, almost directly opposite this house. The house is significant for its unusual system of construction and for its association with Walter Taylor.

History

Walter Taylor purchased land from Catherine Jane Bell in 1928 and 1929. In 1942 he had a new title issued for part of this land, being allotments 65 and 66, and subdivision 2 of allotment 64. In August 1944 he took out a mortgage with The Brisbane Permanent Building and Banking Company Limited, and in August 1945 he applied for a building permit on subdivision 2 of 64. In 1951 this land was purchased by Draper Elsie Matilda Bourne, who held the property until her death in 1974.

The house was built before the 1946 aerial photo series, and is constructed of prefabricated concrete blocks of Taylor's own design. Its unusual appearance, where the blocks are laid in vertical rows, is mirrored in the construction of the neighbouring shop and residence at 335 Honour Ave.

Walter Taylor was born in Sheffield England in 1872. His family had emigrated to Australia when he was ten years old. Walter worked for the railways in Queensland until 1902 when he returned to England to market some inventions. He returned to Australia in 1912, having spent much of his time overseas studying methods of reinforced concrete construction.

In Queensland, Walter undertook construction contracts with many leading architects, building such structures as Tritton's furniture warehouse at North Quay; Brisbane Newspaper Company bulk stores at William and Margaret Streets; warehouse and offices for Hooper & Harrison Ltd, G Smith Esq, Hoey Fry Ltd, and Gordon and Gotch. He also built the nine story Craigston Flats in Wickham Street; No 2 Block and the Nurses Quarters at the Brisbane General Hospital; RSL Club in Elizabeth Street; Tristram's Aerated Water Factory at South Brisbane; and the Breakfast Creek bridge, Albion.

In his local district he constructed two residences on Austral Ave, the Central Buildings at 327 Honour Ave (which contained shops and his own office), the shop and residence at 335 Honour Ave, and a bulk store for his prefabricated concrete blocks at 11 Rakeevan Rd. He also designed and built the Graceville Methodist Church, and two homes for himself, at 15 Molonga Tce and 95 Banks Rd.

He is probably best known for the 1936 Walter Taylor suspension bridge which crosses the Brisbane River at Chelmer, which he both designed and constructed. Taylor was heavily involved in the administration of the Methodist Church in Queensland for almost fifty years, and also in community work. He was president of the Graceville Progress Association and the Indooroopilly-Chelmer Centenary Memorial Bridge League. An inventor, designer and builder, Taylor was also an accomplished bookbinder, exhibiting in Brisbane in 1924 in conjunction with Lloyd Rees.

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:

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as it is one of very few residential buildings constructed in Brisbane in this manner.

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

due to its association with notable Brisbane builder Walter Taylor.

References

1. *Title deeds*, Department of Natural Resources and Mines
2. *Walter Taylor South Character and Heritage Study*, BCC Heritage Unit, 1997
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
4. Brisbane City Council Department of Works Building Register 1925-1945

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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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