

Heritage Citation



93 Ryans Road, St Lucia

Key details

Also known as	Thompson Residence
Addresses	At 93 Ryans Road, St Lucia, Queensland 4067
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Old English
Lot plan	L1_RP53116
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — June 2000

Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Mervyn Rylance (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This Interwar Old English style residence was built for Reginald Thompson in 1937 and was designed by notable Brisbane architect Mervyn Rylance who was then in the early years of his career. The house was noted in its time for its valuable attributes of practical function and the convenience and comfort of its interior design. Its construction reflects St. Lucia's continued development during the interwar period as an affluent suburb.

History

The land on which the house stands was bought by Architect Richard Gailey in 1889. In 1899 it passed into the ownership of the Brisbane Newspaper Company, later the Brisbane Courier and Queensland Newspapers. This company retained ownership of this particular block when it subdivided the large holding into over 120 smaller blocks during the late 1910s. It was eventually bought by accountant Alan Whiteside Munro (in 1935), who quickly split the land further and sold to Reginald Thompson in 1937.

Thompson had the Tudor-style house sketched out by Mervyn Rylance. Rylance practised in Brisbane between 1936-1972 and he is noted as an important Inter-War Brisbane architect, although he is more noted for his Mediterranean styles. The house was designed by Rylance, but he does not appear to have supervised construction, nor indeed completed the detailed drawings and administration as usual. This house is an early example of his work.

The house is an important example of the interwar development of the St Lucia and Toowong area and demonstrated the 'new style' of home available. The house is reported in the Courier Mail of 30 November 1937 as an example 'of the new spirit in home building' in which 'comfort and convenience of interior layout were the first thought' and which demonstrated that 'the manner in which the material is used is of greater importance than the material itself'.¹

Description

This building is a two-storey house in Interwar Tudor style, with terra-cotta tiled roof and 'half-timbered' upper walls projecting beyond the lower walls. Other typical characteristics of the style are the diamond patterned leadlight casement windows, shingle cladding above the bay window, and decorative catslide roof.

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 evidence of St. Lucia's continued development during the interwar period as a desirable area for the professional middle class.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a fine example of the Interwar Old English style of architecture which makes a pleasing contribution to the Ryans Road streetscape.

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 early example of the work of one of Brisbane's most prominent interwar architects Mervyn Rylance.

References

1. John Cock. A Question of Style: The Life and Work of Mervyn Hamilton Rylance. Un pub Thesis. QUT

Bachelor of Arch Thesis. 1995. p.24.

2. Alexander, Joseph A. *Who's who in Australia*, 1944
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
4. Cock, John, *A question of style: The life and work of Mervyn Hamilton Rylance*, B. Arch thesis, QKT, 1995
5. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
6. Environmental Protection Agency
7. JOB Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
8. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
9. Watson, Donald & Judith McKay, *A Directory of Queensland Architects to 1940*, UQ Library, 1984
10. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*. 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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