

Heritage Citation



Ben Nevis

Key details

Addresses	At 36 Christian Street, Clayfield, Queensland 4011
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Old English
Lot plan	L5_RP47144
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — November 2004
Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Masonry
People/associations	James Musgrave Collin (Architect)

This picturesque Old English style house was designed by Brisbane architect James Musgrave Collin circa 1937 for Donald Charles Cameron. The Old English style, which features decorative timber bargeboards and a steeply pitched roof, was popular amongst wealthier residents in the Clayfield area during the interwar period and makes a fine contribution to the streetscape.

History

This circa 1937 masonry home designed by Brisbane architect James Musgrave Collin is significant as an example of the Old English style of architecture popular in Brisbane during the Interwar period, particularly in the Clayfield/Ascot/Hamilton area. It demonstrates patterns of development in Clayfield during this period and has aesthetic significance.

James Musgrave Collin was born in Brisbane in 1907 where he trained as an architect. He was employed by Atkinson, Powell and Conrad during the 1920s before establishing his own practice in 1933. From 1938 to 1954, he was in partnership with A. H. Job. J.M. Collin died in 1974.

The Old English style became popular in Brisbane during the late 1920s and 1930s. These houses were often built for wealthy clients in Brisbane's most fashionable suburbs such as Ascot, Hamilton, Clayfield and Coorparoo. The style, sometimes referred to as Mock Tudor or Stockbroker Tudor usually featured large chimneys, a steeply pitched roof and the combined use of stucco, brick and half timber.

The house is built on land which was part of the grounds of Bayview, an imposing residence built in the 1920s for Thomas and Margaret Lahey which has since been demolished and replaced with high rise apartments. The Laheys, a prominent sawmilling family in Brisbane purchased over 2 acres in Christian Street in 1924. A strip of land to the south of the property was subdivided and sold in 1929. Some 61 perches of this subdivision was bought by Donald Charles Cameron in 1936.

In December 1936, Cameron submitted plans to Council for the construction of a brick residence designed by J.M Collin at a cost of £2 350, a substantial sum at the time for a home. The builder was S. Noyes. Postal records reveal that the Camerons named their home Ben Nevis. Further research is required to establish the occupation of Donald Cameron. It is possible he was related to Sir Donald Charles Cameron, a Queensland soldier, pastoralist and politician who died in 1960.

In 1966, the Camerons placed some 25 perches containing the house on a separate title. This is the same allotment surrounding the house today. Ben Nevis left the ownership of the Camerons in 1967 and in 1980 passed to the present owners. A contemporary brick and tile garage has been added to the site which is excluded from the heritage listing.

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

for the evidence it provides for the continuing development of Clayfield during the interwar years when the spacious grounds of large estates were still being subdivided for residents who could afford fine homes often built in the latest architectural styles.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as an example of a residence built in the interwar period in the Old English style.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

As an attractive example of an architect-designed upper middle class residence built in the Old English style.

Copyright Brisbane City Council

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 June 2022)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane