

Heritage Citation



Blackburne Residence

Key details

Addresses	At 6 Austral Street, St Lucia, Queensland 4067
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Old English
Lot plan	L3_RP52266
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 17 May 2013 Date of Citation — January 2013
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic

6 Austral Street is an interwar residence built in the 'Old English' style, fashionable in this period. The house was designed by prominent Brisbane architectural firm Blackburne and Gzell as the residence for Godfrey Blackburne. The two-storey masonry and timber house is representative of the area's development in the interwar era as a fashionable suburb that attracted professionals and affluent persons seeking to build innovative, architect-designed homes in St. Lucia.

History

The interwar period heralded a new wave of residential development in the St. Lucia area. Much of Brisbane at this time saw a dramatic increase in home building to cater for an increased population; the majority of housing stock constructed at this time was the 'traditional' timber character house. In a move away from this some Brisbane residents, mainly professionals, purchased land in the slowly developing St. Lucia area on which to build architect designed houses. Several fashionable interwar houses were built in the area in the interwar period, including 6 Austral Street.

In 1936 Marjorie Jean Thomson, a spinster, purchased a twenty-nine perch block of land on the crest of a hill in St. Lucia from Walter Maskrey, a Brisbane builder. In August of 1936 Marjory Thomson married Godfrey Aveling Blackburne, the respected Brisbane architect and partner in the firm Blackburne and Gzell. The wedding was announced in *The Courier Mail* on the 8 August 1936, the wedding being a very small and quiet one. The article stated "Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Blackburne left immediately by car for Sydney, and on their return they will take up residence in the new home which has been built to Mr. Blackburne's own design at Austral Street, St. Lucia"¹. In July 1936 Blackburne received building approval for the new house that was estimated to cost £1250. In 1937 Godfrey Blackburne was first listed at the address.

The architectural firm of Blackburne and Gzell can be attributed to building some of Brisbane's most fashionable interwar residences; these included several 'Old English' designs in suburbs such as Ascot, Clayfield, Coorparoo, Graceville and St. Lucia.

Godfrey Blackburne and Vitaly Gzell established their practice in Brisbane in 1934, continuing their partnership until 1953. Blackburne had earlier received the student gold medal of the Queensland Institute of Architects for 1931. The firm became known for their designs in the latest interwar styles, some of which were featured in the social magazines of the era such as the *Steering Wheel*.

6 Austral Street was designed in the interwar 'Old English' or 'Mock Tudor' style. As the names suggest, these houses imitated the white rendered walls and half timbering of 16th century English architecture. Other characteristics of this style which appear in 6 Austral Street include a tiled gabled roof, asymmetrical massing, oriel and bay windows with leadlight glazing, herringbone brickwork, catslide roof and the jettying of the upper storey.

The property stayed in the Blackburne family well into the 1970s.

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 the self-designed residence of Brisbane architect, Godfrey Blackburne, which is representative of the trend for professional Brisbane residents to build their houses in St. Lucia in the interwar period.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a highly attractive house that was built on elevated land in St. Lucia, which features many of the characteristics of the interwar 'Old English' style.

Supporting images



The HOME (1937, March 7). Sunday Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1926 - 1954), p. 28. from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article97894037>

References

1. *The Courier Mail* Saturday 8 August 1936 p23
 2. Judy Gale Rechner, *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: a guide to the affordable house*, Brisbane: Brisbane History Group Studies No. 2, 1998
 3. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
 4. Queensland Post Office Directories
 5. *Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Maps*
 6. Queensland Electoral Rolls
 7. Brisbane City Council Building Register 1936
 8. Apperley, Richard and Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guild to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus and Robertson Publishers, Sydney, 1989
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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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