

## Heritage Citation

# Glengarry

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 9 Molonga Terrace, Graceville, Queensland 4075
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Postwar 1945-1960
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_RP83011
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 November 2012 Date of Citation — November 2010
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls
<b>People/associations</b>	Walter Taylor (Architect)
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (F) Technical; (H) Historical association

9 Molonga Terrace, Graceville, is important in demonstrating the immediate post-war development in the Sherwood/Graceville district. The house was designed and built by Walter Taylor using his patented pre-cast concrete blocks. The simple design of the house reflects the austerity in building design in the immediate post-war era due to the building material shortage.

### History

Immediately after the Second World War Queensland saw a period of intensive housing shortages that reached its peak in 1947 with over 4218 families living in temporary accommodation including housing camps comprised of disused army barracks, calico and canvas tents, and even bark huts. Those who were able to build new homes found it difficult to obtain affordable building materials. The Queensland Government, in an attempt to regulate the building industry at this time of austerity, introduced a permit system that restricted what and how

builders constructed new buildings. This meant that the size of houses built in this period were generally similar in size and design.

Walter Taylor's signature cement blocks had been used prior to the Second World War for several buildings in the area, including the Graceville Uniting Church on Oxley Road, and proved to be an effective way of overcoming the building material shortage in the post-war period in the district. Building materials such as timber and brick were expensive at this time and Taylor's cement blocks were not only relatively inexpensive, but also aesthetically pleasing and exceptionally durable.

The building blocks were fashioned from pre-cast concrete in Taylor's workshop on Rakeevan Road, Graceville. They were then moved on to the building site and placed into position. Once in place the blocks were laced together with steel and concrete. This ensured that the building type was exceptionally sturdy.

Walter Taylor was born in Sheffield England in 1872. His family had immigrated 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 and use of coke breeze block and brick.

In Queensland, Walter undertook construction contracts with many leading architects, building such structures as Trittons 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.

Walter Taylor realised the growth and commercial potential of the Sherwood/Graceville area during the interwar period. In this district he constructed several buildings such as 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 United 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 that crosses the Brisbane River at Chelmer that 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.

In 1947 Ormond Campbell McDonald and his wife, Norma Mary, purchased a one rood bock of land on Molonga Terrace in Graceville. In the same year the Brisbane City Council *Building Records* detail the construction of a new dwelling on the site in 1947 for McDonald. The builder was Walter Taylor. The design of the house incorporated the use of Taylor's patented pre-cast concrete blocks.

'Glengarry' is an important example of an immediate post-war house designed and built by Walter Taylor that used his pre-cast concrete building blocks. The use of these concrete blocks was exclusive to the Sherwood/Graceville/ Chelmer and Indooroopilly areas and there are only a few surviving examples left. 'Glengarry' is an intact representation of one of Taylor's post-war houses that was designed and built by him and as such is historically important to the Sherwood/Graceville district.

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## 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:

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#### 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 post-war concrete block residence designed and built by Walter Taylor that reflects the way the building material shortage affected the Sherwood/Graceville district in that era.

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#### Rarity

##### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

by using an unusual technique for house construction with Walter Taylor's patented pre-cast concrete blocks that were used only in the immediate Sherwood/Graceville district.

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#### Representative

##### CRITERION D

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

as an intact example of a concrete block house constructed from Walter Taylor's patented pre-cast concrete blocks in the Sherwood/Graceville district.

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#### Technical

##### CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period

that was constructed using an unusual building technique with Walter Taylor's patented concrete blocks.

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## 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 'Glengarry' was designed and built by Walter Taylor and used his patented pre-cast concrete blocks at a time of an intense shortage of building materials.

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## References

1. *Historic Titles*, Department of Natural Resources and Water
  2. Queensland Post Office Directories
  3. *Metropolitan Water and Sewage Survey Maps*, 1949
  4. *Immigration, Youth and Culture*, Ed. Ralph Fones, Oxley-Chelmer History Group Papers: II, 1998
  5. Ralph Fones, *Sherwood: Council and Community*, Oxley-Chelmer History Group, 1999
  6. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
  7. Queensland Electoral Rolls
  8. *The Courier Mail*, Thursday 14 October 1943, p2
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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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