

Heritage Citation



Glenora

Key details

Addresses	At 67 Richmond Road, Morningside, Queensland 4170
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Filigree
Lot plan	L1_RP87050
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 17 May 2013 Date of Citation — July 2011
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (F) Technical; (H) Historical association

'Glenora' was built in 1902 for Robert Balloch Stark, of the Allan and Stark Department Store, one of Queensland's most successful in the early twentieth century. The large timber house was designed by Robert Smith (Robin) Dods, one of Queensland's most respected architects. The suburb of Morningside was, in this period, one of Brisbane's less developed outer suburbs and was gaining popularity as a pleasant alternative to living in the crowded inner-suburbs. 'Glenora' is a reflection of this. The house is situated on a large parcel of land with mature tree plantings and this contributes to the property's aesthetic significance. The house has been converted into a boarding home but still retains much of its original interior and exterior features.

History

The Morningside area developed as a result of the extension of the rail line to Cleveland. The Bulimba Railway Station was constructed along the line where the present Morningside Railway Station is today. With an improved means of transport into and out of the City, the area was quickly subdivided into housing estates. The Bulimba Railway Estate was situated on the south-east side of the station with land parcels being sold as early as 1888. By the turn of the century this area was still regarded as an outlying Brisbane suburb with fairly scattered residential development.

In 1902 Robert Balloch Stark purchased two acres, three roods and thirteen perches of land on the Bulimba Railway Estate. Robert Stark was one half of the successful retail partnership of Allan and Stark. Stark immigrated to Queensland from Scotland in 1881 and began working for Duncan Sinclair's drapery business in South Brisbane. In 1882 Stark established his own business and was soon joined by partner James Allan, creating the drapery and outfitting business Allan and Stark. The first business premise was in South Brisbane, but in 1893 moved to Queen St in the City. Allan and Stark Department Store was the foremost department store in Queensland throughout the first half of the twentieth century.

Stark commissioned Dods to design his new house at Morningside. Prior to this in the late 1890s, Dods had designed a house named 'Wairuna' at Highgate Hill for James Allan, Stark's business partner. This may have influenced Stark's choice to commission Dods to design 'Glenora'. Robert Smith (Robin) Dods was one of Queensland's most innovative and respected architects in this period. Reputed for designing some of Brisbane's most important buildings, such as St. Brigid's at Red Hill and the Mater Hospital, Dods's designs followed the Arts and Craft movement and were innovative for the time in their design for a sub-tropical climate. The Stark house was recorded as costing £958.

The Stark house is referred to several times in Robert Riddel's Thesis, "RS (Robin) Dods 1868-1920". It is compared to the 'Littledike' house in Clayfield (no longer extant), both sharing a similar design layout and features. Riddel suggests that 'Glenora' followed a similar plan to the 'Littledike' house but with a differing orientation. He also states that the Morningside house was not as grand or expensive as the Clayfield house, however several similarities exist and some of these similarities, according to Riddel, are uniform characteristics of a Dods' house: 'Glenora' was constructed of timber, and on stumps that were hidden by timber boards, the single skin house was constructed with large verandahs on the north and west sides of the house with the entrance and portico on the west side facing Wickham Street; the verandahs were decorated by "a distinctive undulating and sinuous curved valance" (R.Riddel, p.381); the roof was constructed from corrugated iron and although not as steep as some of Dods's other designs it was carefully shaped; the design included two chimney

stacks, however, compared to other Dods's houses these were fairly simple in design. The house was set back on the large block from Richmond Road and extensive tree planting was undertaken, several of the original plantings are still apparent.

By 1903 Robert Balloch Stark was listed at the Richmond Road address in 'Glenora'. In 1911 Robert Balloch Stark's son, Robert Harold Stark, also a draper, constructed a house for his family across the road from 'Glenora' named 'Wakool' in Richmond Road. Robert Balloch Stark resided at 'Glenora' until his death in 1934. In 1976 'Glenora' was converted into a boarding house. Much of the interior and exterior remains intact and this is supported by Riddel's Thesis in which it is stated that the Stark house *"when inspected...was found to have many carefully detailed elements internally"*¹.

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 a large architect-designed timber house 'Glenora' represents the area's growing appeal to Brisbane's affluent residents as an alternative to the crowded inner-city suburbs in the early twentieth century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

Glenora' is an uncommon example of a R.S. (Robin) Dods designed house in Morningside.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a large Federation period home designed by important Brisbane architect R.S. (Robin) Dods situated on a

large portion of land with mature tree plantings.

Technical

CRITERION F

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

as a timber home designed by RS (Robin) Dods, 'Glenora' is a good example of Dods's innovative architecture that incorporated elements from the Arts and Crafts movement with sub-tropical design.

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 the home of Robert Balloch Stark, founder of the Allan and Stark Department Store.

References

1. Riddel, R. J., R.S (Robin) Dods 1868-1920, University of Queensland PhD, 2008, p.277
2. Riddel, R. J., R.S (Robin) Dods 1868-1920, University of Queensland PhD, 2008
3. "Wairuna", Heritage Citation, Department of Environment and Resource Management
4. "Dods, Robert Smith (Robin) (1868-1920), Australian Dictionary of Biography
5. Apperley, Richard and Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guild to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus and Robertson Publishers, Sydney, 1989
6. University of Queensland, 'Queensland Places: Morningside'
7. Judy Gale Rechner, *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: a guide to the affordable house*, Brisbane: Brisbane History Group Studies No. 2, 1998
8. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
9. Queensland Post Office Directories
10. *Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Maps*
11. Queensland Electoral Rolls
12. *The Courier Mail*, Friday 16 March, 1934, p17.

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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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