

## Heritage Citation



### Gramenz Farmhouse & Dairy

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 7 Upper Brookfield Road, Brookfield, Queensland 4069
<b>Type of place</b>	House, Dairy
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_SP149078
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — November 2010
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

**People/associations** Gramenz family (Occupant);  
Syd Brown (Builder)

**Criterion for listing** (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (H) Historical association

This timber and tin interwar farmhouse and dairy were constructed in the 1930s for farmer Ernst Leo Bernhard Gramenz, whose family was locally well known. These buildings were constructed at a time when Brookfield was a rural farming community and are a rare, surviving example of a Brisbane interwar farmhouse and dairy still located largely in their rural context.

## History

This property is associated with two notable families of the Brookfield area; the Shield and Gramenz families.

The Deed of Grant for this property was issued in January 1860 to William Grigor. At this time the size of the parcel of land was 27 acres. The property was eventually acquired by the Shield family circa 1882. The occupation of the individuals on all title deeds was disclosed as "Timber Merchant." However by mid 1895 the property was eventually placed solely in the name of Michael Shield. At the time of this title deed consolidation the area of land was reduced to just over 24 acres, 1 rood and 21 perches. The Shield family, as with the Gramenz family, were involved in a number of community activities at Brookfield.

In July 1903 the property was acquired by Paul Gramenz Snr (also known as Herman Heinrich Gramenz) and farmed. By around 1933 Paul Gramenz's eldest son, Ernst Leo Bernhard Gramenz, according to family history, moved onto the property, eventually acquiring the title to the land in circa 1933. Family records (bank document dated 6 January 1937 for 'unspecified purposes') provide an indication that a dwelling and dairy may have been constructed for Ernst during the 1937-38 period. The dairy was run by Ernst and his son Alexander and possibly underwent modernisation/alteration in the 1950s.

The dwelling appears to be a blend of interwar style with the inner core roofline exhibiting aspects of earlier Queensland housing styles. Construction of the dwelling is attributed to Syd Brown. Brown, from family history information, had a long association with the Gramenz family, erecting houses for other family members well into the 1950s.

The Gramenz family residence was constructed at what could be regarded as a time of community consolidation at Brookfield. The teacher's residence was acquired by the Trustees of the Brookfield Recreation and Show Ground Reserve circa 1932 and was subsequently leased as a store. In addition the current hall on the showgrounds land was erected during the 1932-34 period.

While the property has remained under the control of the Gramenz family the title deeds disclose that in September 1945 the property was resumed under section 8 (this section deals with the resumption of land for roads) of The Land Acts 1910-1948 (Qld). However in October 1948 the land was returned to the ownership of Ernst Leo Bernard Gramenz under a new Deed of Grant. The current Gramenz family members intend to restore the buildings.

---

## Description

### Residence:

The residence is constructed of timber with a corrugated iron roof. The dwelling has interwar styled verandahs on the southern, northern and eastern sides with the main entry being stairs leading to an extended portion of the verandah located on the eastern side. There is a single gable transversing the verandah with half timbered infill.

The centre core of the dwelling's roof is raised and exhibits characteristics of traditional Queensland style colonial housing. The rear of the dwelling is at ground level, while the stumps gradually increase in proportion to the slope of the land. There is arched and full-length subfloor batten infill towards the front portion of the house.

The dwelling is situated with an easterly aspect taking advantage of the elevated site, with mature trees to the rear of the residence. Currently the residence is situated in large paddock area that contributes to the rural setting of the farmhouse.

### Dairy:

Located in the lower portion of the paddock closest to the road, the dairy, as with most farm buildings, is designed and constructed with function the foremost priority. Utilising commonly found materials the dairy is of sheeted roofing iron over a wooden frame, with internal partitions, pens, and wooden floors. As with many utilitarian farm buildings the structure has evolved over a period of time, with additions occurring in later periods. Currently much of the interior of the dairy remains as it was when its use as a dairy/milking shed ceased.

Both the residence and the dairy are notable local landmarks in the Brookfield area.

---

## 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 interwar farmhouse and agricultural building (dairy) built in Brookfield when it was a rural area.

---

## Rarity

### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a rare surviving example of an intact interwar farmhouse and dairy in Brookfield.

---

## Representative

### CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places as a landmark remnant farmhouse and dairy from the interwar period.

---

## 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 for the long association the property has with the notable local (Brookfield) Gramenz family.

---

## References

1. Certificates of Title.
2. Family History information supplied by Angela Gramenz
3. John Oxley Library Photograph Collection
4. Meadows, Jane. *Brisbane's Western Suburbs: Our Heritage in Focus*. (Brisbane: State Library of Queensland Foundation. 1994)
5. Post Office Directories.
6. Queensland Electoral Rolls
7. Wager, Libby. *Historic Brookfield*. (Pullenvale: Pullenvale Field Study Centre. 1988)
8. Wager, Libby. *Different Tracks*. (Brookfield: Kenmore-Brookfield Parish of the Uniting church in Australia.

## 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 September 2020)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*