

Heritage Citation



John Kindler's House

Key details

Addresses	At 30 Percival Terrace, Holland Park, Queensland 4121
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Old English
Lot plan	L62_RP53304
Key dates	Significant Development — 1936 Local Heritage Place Since — 26 July 2019 Date of Citation — April 2018
People/associations	Johannes Ernest Kindler (John Kindler) (Occupant)

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This two-storey masonry house was built in 1936 for Johannes Ernest Kindler, better known as John Kindler. As one of the leading engineers in Queensland, Kindler was responsible for many important infrastructure projects and was one of the engineers on the Story Bridge. Built as part of the Stonehaven Heights estate, it illustrates the suburban development of Holland Park when wealthy and professional Brisbane residents had modern houses built on the tops of its hills. The tall house makes a strong contribution to the Percival Terrace streetscape.

History

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the suburb we know today as Holland Park was predominately farms. It was the extension of the tramline from Greenslopes to Holland Park in 1926 which became the catalyst for suburban development. By the late 1920s there was a post office, a hotel and a primary school.

As the large farm holdings were subdivided in the 1920s and 30s, various land estates were created in the area, including the Stonehaven Heights estate. Marketed at those with financial means, the estate took advantage of the high position of what was then known as Mount Pleasant, and its high ridgeline which afforded views from all directions. The estate was extensively advertised in the mid to late 1930s in the Brisbane newspapers:

Stonehaven Heights, Mount Pleasant, 57 Ideal Home Sites, Amidst Delightful Surroundings and Modern Bungalows; the estate is one of Brisbane's beauty spots, and is conveniently situated ... with glorious panoramic views of the city and mountains ... right in the track of the cool summer breezes, and every modern convenience – water, electric light, gas, and telephone.¹

Stonehaven Heights estate was promoted as being close to the tramline, public school and parks. By the late 1930s the majority of lots had been sold and suburban development had transformed the estate. A series of large, architect designed homes were built on the ridgeline amongst more modest but aesthetically pleasing houses creating one of Brisbane's most sought after residential addresses.

In May 1939 Stonehaven Heights was featured in the Telegraph's 'Better Homes' section under the heading "A Colony of Character Homes". The feature highlighted the efforts made by all the property owners in the estate to ensure the aesthetics of the estate were maintained in relation to the fine houses, gardens and settings, "the object is to encourage each home whether small or large to give atmosphere to its neighbour and therefore build to an idea".² The article described the wide range of architectural designs in the estate such as Spanish Mission and English Revival, "It is a pleasure to drive amongst these well-planned and maintained homes ... those people who own homes on Stonehaven Heights are to be congratulated"³

In 1939 Johannes Ernest Kindler purchased a twenty four perch block of land situated on the high ridgeline of Percival Terrace. The transfer of the Title Deeds to Kindler may have been delayed, as sometimes occurs, as the plans for a new brick residence for Kindler were approved in February 1936 for Percival Terrace. No architect was recorded for the design of the house. The contractor commissioned to build the house was B. Hollingworth.

By the early 1940s the house had been completed and Kindler and his wife, Sara Kathleen, were listed at the address in the Electoral Rolls.

Johannes Ernest Kindler is better known as John Ernest Kindler and was a leading figure in Queensland's engineering history. After graduating from the University of Adelaide as an engineer with a master's degree in 1930, he secured a position with the New South Wales Department of Public Works working on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. From 1934 he secured a position as assistant to the supervising engineer on the construction of the Story Bridge in Brisbane. As the largest steel bridge, constructed entirely with local materials and built by Australians, the bridge was designed to span the Brisbane River between Kangaroo Point and Fortitude Valley.

With the escalation of World War Two and the increasing risk of enemy attack, Kindler was seconded to the Allied Works Council in 1942 to assist with the construction of coastal defences and marine facilities under Queensland's deputy director-general of allied works, Sir John Kemp. After the war, Kindler gained several important engineering positions with the Queensland government, including deputy chief engineer of hydraulics. In 1954 he was promoted to chief engineer and was involved in important infrastructure projects such as Barron River and Tully Falls hydro-electric schemes, development of the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus and supervised the construction of twenty significant bridges throughout the state.

Kindler played an integral role in advancing his profession and was awarded several prestigious awards for his engineering work and sat on the board of the faculty of engineering at the University of Queensland and in 1965 helped found the Queensland Institute of Technology, now known as the Queensland University of Technology, where a lecture theatre and academic medal has been named after him.

Kindler died in 1968, but the Percival Street property remained in the Kindler family until the 1970s. Today, the striking brick and masonry house makes a significant contribution to the streetscape and illustrates the pattern of development of fine houses in Holland Park in the Interwar period.

Description

John Kindler's House is a tall two-storey dwelling built in the Interwar English Revival style, located part way along the northern side of the suburban ridge street of Percival Terrace. The house features a prominent street facing gable with half-timber details, gabled relief entry porch and leadlight casement windows which all contribute to the Interwar English Revival style of the residence.

The surrounding houses along the street are generally single-storey and display a variety of styles from the Interwar period. There is a consistent setback of the houses from the street boundary with relatively small front yards along Percival Terrace and much larger yards to the rear. The elevated location of the street provides prominent views toward the Brisbane CBD and lower undulating topography of the suburbs to the north. The subject house has a strong presence on the street due to its taller scale and prominent location compared to the other residences. Tall hedges are located along the boundary of many properties on the street

A tall hedge lines the front boundary of the subject site and pedestrian access is provided through a central timber gateway. A paved path leads across the yard at an angle to the entry porch. Vehicular access is provided

via a concrete crossover and paved driveway along the east boundary. The front yard contains three mature trees and some small plant beds.

The house has a high-pitched tiled gable roof with gable ends facing south to the street and east over the driveway, coinciding with the two main facades of the building. A brick chimney is located at the eastern gable end and features a flat top and painted render finish below the roof line.

The principal façade has dark brick walls at the ground floor, with feature details such as stack bond borders to the windows. Corbeled brickwork supports the bottom of the jettied upper level. The walls of the first storey are rendered with face brick quoining at the edges. At the centre of the elevation is an entry porch with gabled relief and detailed brickwork, including a basket weave panel above the arched entryway. The timber panelled front door is located under the porch.

The gable end on the eastern elevation is finished similarly to the rest of the first floor with rendered walls and face brick quoining. A tiled skillion window hood is located above two single casement windows which have face brick sills.

The interiors of John Kindler's House have not been inspected.

John Kindler's House remains largely intact. The later additions include a garage, rear pergola, pool and minor landscaping work. The garage has face brick walls and a terracotta tile feature to the top which compliments the material palette of the house. The subject house is in excellent condition.

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 striking masonry house built in 1936 as part of the Stonehaven Heights estate, it is representative of Holland Park's suburban development, with houses planned in a layout and orientation to take advantage of the topography on large, elevated sites during the interwar period.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a prominent 1930s masonry house displaying decorative dark brick work and situated on a high ridgeline, it makes a strong contribution to the streetscape.

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 built for important Queensland civil engineer, John Ernest Kindler, in which he resided from the late 1930s until his death in 1968.

References

1. *Courier Mail*, 14 November 1936
2. *Telegraph*, May 30, 1939
3. *Ibid*
4. Post Office Directories.
5. Certificates of Titles, Department of Natural Resources and Mines
6. Queensland Electoral Rolls
7. Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle, *The Character of Residential Areas, Brisbane*, A Study for the Brisbane City Council, 1994
8. Brisbane History Group, *Housing, Health, the River and the Arts*, Papers No. 3, 1985
9. Brisbane City Council Water and Sewerage Maps
10. Brisbane City Council Building Registers
11. Australian Dictionary of Biography, "John Ernest Kindler"
12. *Courier Mail*, 29 June 1940, p18
13. *Courier Mail*, 15 February 1945, p3

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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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