

## Heritage Citation



### Merriwa

#### Key details

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Addresses</b>     | At 42 Eagle Street, Alderley, Queensland 4051                               |
| <b>Type of place</b> | House   |
| <b>Period</b>        | Interwar 1919-1939  |
| <b>Style</b>         | Spanish Mission   |
| <b>Lot plan</b>      | L2_RP45439; L1_RP45439  |
| <b>Key dates</b>     | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005<br>Date of Citation — July 2011 |
| <b>Construction</b>  | Roof: Corrugated iron;<br>Walls: Masonry - Stucco                           |

**People/associations** Bruce Lucas (Architect);  
C.M. Anderson of Chelmer (Builder)

**Criterion for listing** (A) Historical; (H) Historical association

World War I veteran and decorated officer, Frederick John Biggs married Bessie Pike in April 1929 and in the same year lodged the building application for this property. An engineering graduate, Biggs was at the time a workshop manager for Whatmore McIntosh Motors. The house, known as 'Merriwa', was built for £1600 by Chelmer builder CM Anderson, to a Mediterranean/Spanish Mission style by architect Bruce Lucas.

---

## History

In 1929 application was made for approval to build a £1600 house on the allotment for F.J. Biggs, c/o Whatmore McIntosh Motors (motor agents and importers). The architect was Bruce Lucas and the builder C.M. Anderson of Chelmer. Frederick J. Biggs was living here by 1933, remaining until after 1940.

Following training at Brisbane Central Technical College, and in London and Sydney, Frederick Bruce Lucas began his practice in Brisbane in 1927. Early in his career Lucas looked abroad for inspiration, exploring the popular Californian Bungalow, English Tudor and Spanish Mission styles. However, only three other houses in the Mediterranean/Spanish Mission style have been positively identified as the work of Bruce Lucas, in addition to this house. The house therefore is a relatively rare example of this style executed by Lucas during the few years he practised before the entering a partnership with Robert Cummings in 1936. Both Lucas and Cummings went on to be prominent post-war architects, particularly active in the professional organisation of architecture and architectural education in Queensland.

---

## 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 an architect-designed home built in the area when it was becoming established as an elite address.

---

## 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 a home designed by architect, Bruce Lucas.

---

## References

1. Queensland Post Office Directories
2. Queensland Electoral Rolls
3. National Archive of Australia barcode 3081677
4. Margaret Lawrence-Drew, Lucas and Cummings Architects, B.Arch. thesis, University of Queensland, 1986, pp. 5-11
5. Donald Watson & Judith McKay, *A directory of Queensland architects to 1940*, University of Queensland Library, St Lucia, 1984, p. 129
6. Brisbane City Council Building Register 1929
7. Detail Plan, No. 887, n.d.
8. *Brisbane Courier*, 1864-1933
9. *Courier Mail*, 1933-1954

---

## 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 June 2022)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*