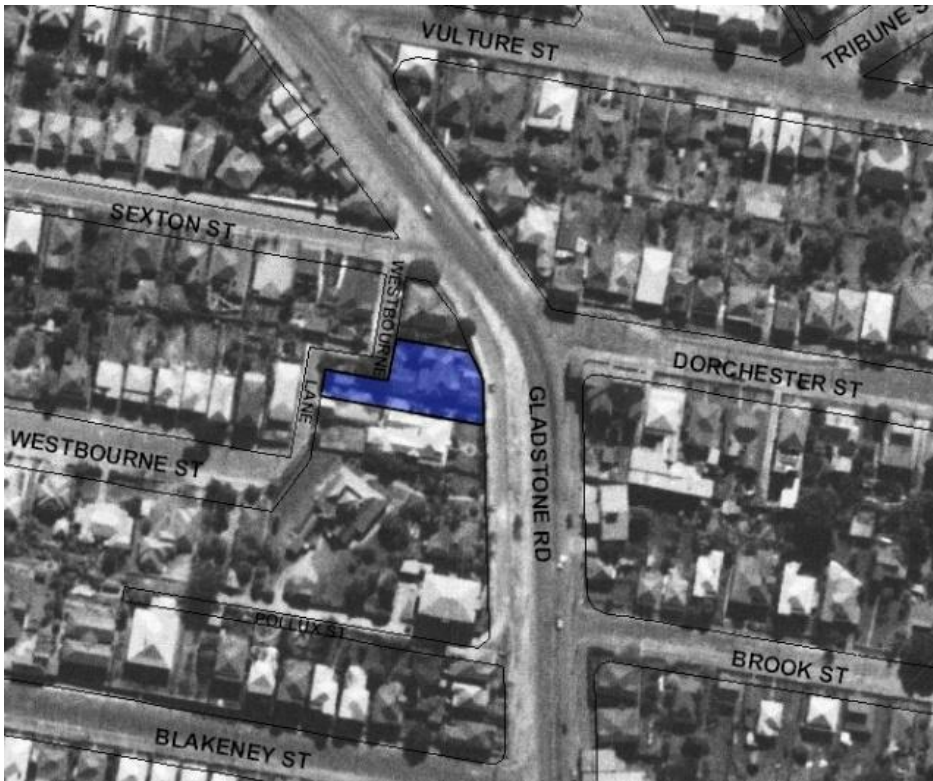




Heritage Citation



Orama

Key details

Addresses	At 21 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill, Queensland 4101
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Filigree
Lot plan	L2_RP11722; L3_RP11722
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — July 2011

Construction

Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic

'Orama' is a large, Federation house built in 1906 on the Blakeney Estate. Frank and Harriet Reimers had bought a vacant block in 1902. Frank Reimers was the Queensland Manager of the well-known Oriental Tea Company. The Reimers retained ownership of their property for nearly 80 years. 'Orama', with its finely detailed Filigree style featuring a semi-octagonal turret with a conical roof, is indicative of the homes built by wealthy Brisbane residents, who were attracted to Highgate Hill due to its panoramic views and breezes.

History

Perched above Gladstone Road with sweeping views of South Brisbane and the city beyond, 'Orama' was built around 1906 for Frank Reimers and his wife Harriet. The land on which 'Orama' was built was once part of a five acre property acquired in 1860 by Deed of Grant by William Theophilus Blakeney, Under Sheriff of Queensland in 1862, Deputy Registrar General in 1865 and Registrar General in 1883. Blakeney built his home 'Cooltigue' on the highest point of the estate in the early or middle 1860s. As was the pattern with most of the large estates around Brisbane, Blakeney began to subdivide his property around the turn of the century. In November 1901, Blakeney Estate, comprising "51 magnificent building locations" was advertised for auction. The advertisement boasted that the estate was "Picturesque and beautiful, high and healthy" and featured an "easterly aspect, electric tram route ...superb views... gas and water".

In January 1902, Reimers purchased forty perches from the Blakeney Estate and by 1906 was living in his new home. Reimers was the manager of the Oriental Tea Company Pty Ltd, which was based in Eagle Street in the city. He and his family continued to live in 'Orama' until Frank died in 1951. Harriet Reimers finally sold the property in 1981, after almost eighty years in the family.

Description

The dominant element of this fine timber residence is its corner piece, a semi-octagonal turret with a conical roof topped by a finial and skirted by a verandah. The body of the house has a hipped roof with projecting lower gables. The windows to the rooms below these gable ends have sun hoods supported on timber brackets. Timber battening is situated in the upper part of each exposed gable end. A brick chimney to the rear of the building rises above the height of the main roof. The timber verandah posts are topped by ornate brackets which support the verandah roof. The timber railing has filigree lacework below it as infill. The verandah is still supported on timber stumps, and has arched battening running as a skirt between them.

Part of the undercroft of the house is now enclosed, and at the rear of the building the upper level verandah has been glazed with casement windows in timber frames. A recent addition is the high brick fence which obscures much of the house from busy Gladstone Road, and is not sympathetic to the lightweight construction of the house itself.

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 it reflects the process which occurred in the South Brisbane area in the late nineteenth century, in which many of the large, grand estates were subdivided into smaller, urban allotments.

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 and finely detailed Federation style house that was constructed due to Highgate Hill's popularity as a locale with Brisbane's wealthier residents.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as it is an early twentieth century, relatively intact, Federation Filigree style house skirted by an ornate verandah and featuring a semi-octagonal turret with a roof topped by a finial.

References

1. Brisbane History Group, *South Brisbane Heritage Tour*, 1985
 2. Estate Map, John Oxley Library, 1901
 3. Titles Office Records and Post Office Directories
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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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