

Heritage Citation



St. Briavels

Key details

Addresses	At 20 Archer Street, Toowong, Queensland 4066
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Old English
Lot plan	L3_RP48267
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — December 2015
Construction	Roof: Slate; Walls: Timber

People/associations Richard Gailey Jnr (Architect);
W.J. Boland (Builder)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This interwar house, designed by notable Brisbane architect Richard Gailey Jnr, is an excellent example of a two storey American Colonial Style residence. It was constructed circa 1930 for Maude Smith and named 'St. Briavels,' possibly after the village in Gloucestershire, England. This house is a good example of the kinds of middle to upper class residences built in elevated positions on or near the Brisbane River in the early to mid twentieth century, allowing residents to take advantage of the views and cool breezes.

History

This particular allotment was purchased in July 1930 by Maude Smith (listed as Howard-Smith in the Post Office Directory). The allotment was part of a larger block of land, which was attached to the adjacent property known as Udale.

The Toowong area during the interwar period saw a number of smaller subdivisions created from the sale of land attached to the earlier residences, which were usually set upon larger allotments

Richard Gailey Jnr was the architect engaged to design and supervise construction. The owner of the house obviously required completion as soon as possible, as tenders were called in the July 10 issue of The Architect and Builder Journal of Queensland for a 'wood residence at Toowong: closing July 18.'

The application submitted to the Brisbane City Council in September of 1930, was for a wood residence with a tiled roof. The contractor is given as W.J Boland of Park Road, Woollongabba. The cost of work is listed as £1,821. Comparatively, this was approximately three times the cost of an average wood residence at the time. It should also be noted that this residence was erected during the early stages of the disastrous economic depression of the 1930s.

Gailey was the son of the important and influential Queensland Architect Richard Gailey who designed such local (Toowong) State-listed buildings as the 'Regatta Hotel' and 'Moorlands'. Gailey (Snr) through his investments and work became an important Brisbane businessman and philanthropist.

Richard Gailey Jnr was articled to his father's firm in 1890 and was admitted as a partner in 1896. Gailey practised with his father until his father's death in 1924. He maintained the Gailey practice until the 1950s. Although Gailey (Jnr) is best known for his design of the 'Brisbane Arcade' he would have been involved and influential in many of the important Gailey firm's architectural commissions.

The house is an existing example of where a residence is situated on an allotment which takes full advantage of the exposure to the Brisbane River. This follows a pattern of Brisbane development which was established in the mid c19th where elite houses were located upon elevated positions, adjacent or near the Brisbane River, which

allowed them to take advantage of not only the views but the cooling breezes as well. Following the development of the higher ground, the lower topographic areas of Brisbane became developed for the lower socio-economic groups providing a unique mixture, within suburbs of the various socio-economic strata which comprised Brisbane.

This residence was given the name 'St Briavel's' and is an excellent example of the domestic work of Richard Gailey (Jnr) which demonstrates one of the styles of architect designed houses in the interwar period.

Description

This architect-designed house is of an unusual style, best described as American Colonial. It has a steep slate tiled roof with attic rooms expressed externally with an 'eyelid' dormer running almost full length of both sides of the roof.

The riverside of the house is graced by a colonnade, utilising rustic classical columns, reinforcing the stylistic ties with traditional East Coast American residences.

Windows are multi-pane double-hung (most) with shutters. A substantial brick chimney visually anchors one end of the house, running externally full height. The upper reaches of the main gables, and the entirety of the minor gables are subtly differentiated from the lower walls with bell-curved closely spaced weatherboards. The roofs are lower pitched over the eaves, giving the roof a picturesque profile.

The overall effect is of a well researched, carefully and richly detailed architectural composition. It might also be argued this house was designed to stand out from, but be related to, the popular and prolific Californian Bungalow of the Interwar Period.

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 example of the type and style of dwellings constructed along the Brisbane River during the interwar period.

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

As a very rare example of an American Colonial style residence built during the interwar period in Brisbane

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

As an outstanding example of an architect-designed house built in the American Colonial style.

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 fine example of the domestic work of important Queensland architect Richard Gailey Jnr.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Cuffley, Peter. *Australian Houses of the Twenties & Thirties*. (Oxford, Victoria; Five Mile Press. 1993)
3. Apperly, Richard et al. *A pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1989
4. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
5. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
6. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
7. Post Office Directories

8. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
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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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