

## PROPOSED LOCAL HERITAGE PLACE

30, 32, and 38 Archer Street, Toowong (LOT PLAN: 2\_RP51940, 3/4\_RP18706, and 5/7\_RP18706)



### SUMMARY

Constructed between 1923 and 1937, this intact group of houses at 30, 32 and 38 Archer Street were built in a mix of Arts and Crafts and American Colonial styles. The houses, individually and collectively, demonstrate the design changes that occurred in Brisbane's domestic architecture during this time as architects explored new styles and moved away from more traditional designs and materials. In illustrating these characteristics, the houses also demonstrate the type and style of dwellings constructed along the Brisbane River during this period.

# HISTORY

## A history of Toowong

Land sales began in the area in the 1850s, and by the 1860s, the village of Toowong had started to take shape. By 1880, when the Shire of Toowong was proclaimed, the population stood at around 1,000 people and occupied an area of four and a half square miles. In 1903, the Shire of Toowong was proclaimed a town. An electric tramline began operating along Milton Road in the same year. As Toowong developed – its population stood at 9,987 in 1921 – the Town was incorporated into the Greater Brisbane City Council in 1925 as one of the City's founding wards. Toowong was initially represented by Archibald Watson, who had served as the Town's last serving Mayor. Watson served as an Alderman until 1931 and was Deputy Mayor between 1926 and 1931. He also briefly served as Lord Mayor in 1931. As a suburb of Brisbane, Toowong now forms part of the Paddington and Walter Taylor Wards. Its population in 2011 stood at 11,255.

An April 1924 article in *The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland* suggested that '[F]or perfect natural beauty perhaps the suburb of Toowong is unexcelled.'<sup>1</sup> Forming part of *The Architecture and Building Journal's* 'Brisbane's Beautiful Suburbs series, the article's romantic description of Toowong noted that the town could be divided into three principal areas. These areas were a portion located adjacent to the tramline that ran down Milton Road; a business area located near the railway station; and the 'picturesque' area of St Lucia where the main campus of the University of Queensland would be constructed in the 1930s.<sup>2</sup> The article also described how Toowong had changed over time. Notably, it was recorded that many of the old estates that had existed in Toowong now sat side by side with newer 'more modern' bungalows.<sup>3</sup>

## Archer Street and the development of domestic architecture in Brisbane

The development of Archer Street began as early as 1887 when it was recorded that 'the street off River-road in the Middenbury Estate [had been] named Archer Street.'<sup>4</sup> Archer Street was named after Alexander Archer and his family, who had owned land in this part of Toowong from the 1860s onwards.<sup>5</sup> However, Archer Street was not listed in the *Post Office Directory* until the 1892 edition. At this time, only three residents were listed on Archer Street. It would not be until the 1920s that most of the houses backing onto the Brisbane River were constructed on the east side of Archer Street. An exception was the house occupied by Mr Justice Thomas O'Sullivan that *The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland* described in 1924 as a 'commodious two-story brick dwelling' with a commanding 'view of the [Brisbane] river extending to the bridge.'<sup>6</sup> This house, known as *Udale*, was formerly located between 20 and 30 Archer Street and was constructed by 1892.

Collectively, 30, 32 and 38 Archer Street, located on the street's east side, took advantage of their location on a hillside, elevated above and overlooking the Brisbane River. The rear elevation of the houses had views across 'two reaches of the river [and] across the fields of St Lucia.'<sup>7</sup> *The Telegraph* highlighted Archer Street's aesthetic value in a 1936 article in that described the Street

<sup>1</sup> 'Brisbane's Beautiful Suburbs – Toowong,' *The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland* 2, no. 22 (1924), p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> 'Brisbane's Beautiful Suburbs – Toowong,' p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> 'Brisbane's Beautiful Suburbs – Toowong,' p. 23.

<sup>4</sup> 'Shire of Toowong Council,' *The Brisbane Courier*, 15 September 1887, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Kay Cohen *et al*, *Lost Brisbane and Surrounding Areas, 1860-1960* (Brisbane: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, 2014), p. 34.

<sup>6</sup> 'Brisbane's Beautiful Suburbs – Toowong,' p. 23.

<sup>7</sup> 'New Home on Hillside,' *Sunday Mail*, 11 December 1938, p. 18.



as an 'English-looking lane.'<sup>8</sup> More broadly, the houses represent the design changes that occurred in Brisbane's domestic architecture after Federation and through to the period between the First and Second World Wars when new design styles were explored. In this period, designs moved from the more traditional vernacular 'timber and tin' designs that characterised Colonial and Victorian period dwellings to houses that incorporated various styles ranging from Arts and Crafts to Spanish Mission.

The Arts and Crafts movement in Australia emerged at around the time of Federation and continued through to the years after the First World War. In Australia, the Arts and Crafts movement was 'an urban response to the challenges of modernity and industrialisation' that was influenced by developments in Great Britain and the United States while having its own logic.<sup>9</sup> In Brisbane, the major proponent of the style was Robin Dods, who was widely recognised for his Arts and Crafts inspired designs. Indeed, Dods' 'early work was full of the romance of an arts and crafts philosophy which he never completely lost.'<sup>10</sup>

Characterised by houses that had, a conspicuous roof form, single tile or slate roofing and gable parapets, the impact of the Arts and Crafts movement was significant.<sup>11</sup> As well as producing many well-regarded examples of domestic architecture, the Arts and Crafts movement also influenced town planning principles. This influence is best illustrated by Walter Griffin's plans for the development of Canberra.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the Arts and Crafts movement led to a 'long-term love affair' with English domestic revival architecture and helped prepare the way for Modernism because of its 'stress on function and truth to materials.'<sup>13</sup>

American Colonial-style houses, such as 30 Archer Street, while relatively uncommon in Brisbane, fall under the rubric of the Colonial Revival movement that became prominent in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Such designs typically incorporated, for example, 'formal symmetry, plain wall surfaces [...], multi-paned windows, simple round-headed arches to arcades and windows.'<sup>14</sup> Closely linked to the Georgian Revival movement, Colonial Revival architecture 'formed part of a general adoption of Beaux-Arts classical thinking' that followed the Arts and Crafts movement.<sup>15</sup> However, Colonial Revival properties can be distinguished from Georgian Revival houses based on their sources of inspiration.<sup>16</sup> The latter looked to Great Britain for inspiration. In contrast, the former looked for stimulus from the United States and Australian Georgian period buildings. This inspiration was also often influenced by the impact that travel had on those architects who designed such dwellings.<sup>17</sup>

### The construction and ownership of 30 Archer Street

The American Colonial-inspired house at 30 Archer Street was designed and built for Irene Young using a mortgage for an undisclosed amount that was taken out from the State Advances

<sup>8</sup> "'Hy-Trees and Tall Timber,' *The Telegraph*, 10 November 1936, p. 22.

<sup>9</sup> Harriet Edquist, 'Arts and Crafts' in Philip Goad and Julie Willis (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture* (Melbourne, VIC: Cambridge University Press, 2012), p. 44.

<sup>10</sup> R. J. Riddell, 'Dods, Robert Smith (Robin) (1868–1920),' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dods-robert-smith-robin-5991/text10227>, published first in hardcopy 1981, accessed online 22 September 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Richard Apperly et al, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* (Sydney, NSW, Angus & Robertson Sydney, 1989), p. 142.

<sup>12</sup> Edquist, 'Arts and Crafts,' p. 45; Nicholas Brown, *A History of Canberra* (Melbourne, VIC: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 50-61.

<sup>13</sup> Edquist, 'Arts and Crafts,' p. 46; Philip Goad, 'English Domestic Revivals' in Goad and Willis (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture*, p. 235.

<sup>14</sup> Ian Stapleton, 'Colonial Revival' in Goad and Willis (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture*, p. 164.

<sup>15</sup> Ian Stapleton, 'Georgian Revival' in Goad and Willis (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture*, p. 270.

<sup>16</sup> Ian Stapleton, 'Colonial Revival,' p. 164.

<sup>17</sup> Stapleton, 'Georgian Revival,' p. 271.

Corporation in 1935. The house was completed by 1937 and cost £1,151 to build.<sup>18</sup> As a good example of an American Colonial house in Brisbane the 30 Archer Street includes characteristic design elements, such as a large, centralised window that includes shutters.

The origins of the State Advances Corporation can be traced back to 1909, when the Queensland Government passed the *Workers' Dwelling Act*. The *Workers' Dwelling Act* underwent several changes until 1920, when the responsibility for state housing passed onto the newly created State Advances Corporation. The overarching aim of the State Advances Corporation was to encourage homeownership, including the sale of rental properties to tenants. The purpose of a State Advances Corporation mortgage was to assist applicants in constructing houses on their own land or government selected land with a loan from the Queensland Government.

Before the mid-1930s, the State Advances Corporation had been reluctant to fund the construction houses in anything other than the traditional 'Queenslander' style. However, by the time 30 Archer Street was built an increasing choice of designs were available, including Spanish Mission and California Bungalow style houses. Nonetheless, the State Advances Corporation still advocated that the 'dominant feature of all the designs' on offer was 'simplicity of construction.' This was so that 'initial costs' and those related to 'repainting and repairs' could be kept to a minimum.<sup>19</sup> As such, styles such as American Colonial-inspired houses did not appear in the State Advances Corporation's *Design of Dwellings* booklet that advertised designs on offer.

The revised *The State Advances Act and Other Acts Relief Amendment Act* (Qld) of 1934 had, however, increased the maximum income of applicants from £416 to £750 and inaugurated a maximum advance of up to £1,250 for brick or concrete dwellings. The revisions also extended the length of time the mortgage was to be repaid, from 20 to 30 years. This expansion allowed for a greater variety of house styles to be constructed and made available to a wider section of the population. Consequently, and in the shadow of the depression, this stimulated the state economy through increased house construction and made better quality houses, such as 30 Archer Street, more affordable.

### The construction and ownership of 32 Archer Street

Archer Street was the location of several substantial houses designed by well-known architects of the period between the First and Second World Wars. For example, the Arts and Crafts inspired residence at 32 Archer Street – eventually called *Millers* – was designed by E.P. Trewern in 1923 for Associate Professor Alexander Clifford Vernon Melbourne, who lived in the property from 1924 until 1928 when he moved to Great Britain to undertake doctoral studies. As illustrated by his employment of one of Brisbane's emerging architects, *Millers* was a physical manifestation of Melbourne's success as an academic in the years leading up to the construction of the house. *Millers* was constructed by Trewern's preferred builder Burton Hollingsworth and was described in the tender notice in November 1923 as a 'timber and tile residence.'<sup>20</sup> A picture of the completed residence appeared in *The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland* in 1925.<sup>21</sup> As a good example of an Arts and Crafts house designed by an influential architect, *Millers* illustrates the characteristics of this style through the use of through elements, such as its informal window

<sup>18</sup> 'State Advances Corporation,' *The Courier-Mail*, 19 May 1936, p. 23.

<sup>19</sup> State Advances Corporation, *Designs of Dwellings* (Brisbane, QLD: Government Printer, 1935), p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> 'Advertising,' *The Telegraph*, 31 October 1923, p. 10; 'Advertising,' *The Telegraph*, 7 November 1923, p. 7.

<sup>21</sup> 'New Residence at Toowong for A.C.V. Melbourne, Esq.,' *The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland* 2, no. 34 (1925), p. 60.



arrangement and offset, flat-roofed entry porch. Local newspapers regularly reported on other well-designed houses constructed on Archer Street.<sup>22</sup>

Trewern, born in 1895 in Bendigo, Victoria, moved to Queensland in 1916, initially working for the Queensland Government. In 1920, Trewern moved into private practice, where he developed a reputation as a highly regarded architect of domestic and commercial properties. Trewern died in 1959. The height of Trewern's design success occurred between the First and Second World Wars, and he is renowned for his innovative designs incorporating the Spanish Mission and the Old English styles. However, as evidenced by *Millers*, Trewern was equally at home working in styles such as those influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. Trewern was an active member of many architectural societies to improve professional architectural standards in Queensland. For example, Trewern served as the President of the Queensland Institute of Architecture between 1931 and 1935 and was Vice-President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture between 1932 and 1933.<sup>23</sup>

Melbourne was a noted member of Brisbane's history community. Described as a 'loyal colleague and modest man' by those who worked with him, Melbourne was born in Adelaide in 1888 and joined the University of Queensland in 1913.<sup>24</sup> Initially commencing as a temporary lecturer in History and Economics, Melbourne was appointed to a permanent position in 1916. He was eventually appointed Associate Professor in 1934. Melbourne completed his MA in 1921. He was then awarded a Laura Spelman Rockefeller Fellowship to undertake doctoral research in Great Britain. Melbourne was awarded his PhD by the University of London in 1930. His research on the constitutional history of Australia was considered noteworthy by Professor A.P. Newton, the Rhodes Professor of Imperial History at King's College London. This led to his work being published in the 'prestigious Cambridge History of the British Empire.'<sup>25</sup> Other works by Melbourne, such as his 1934 history, the *Early Constitutional Development of Australia: New South Wales, 1788-1856*, remain widely cited.<sup>26</sup> Outside of his academic work, Melbourne also contributed to the daily life and administration of the University of Queensland. For example, in 1925, Melbourne was the first non-professional member of staff to be elected to the University's Senate.<sup>27</sup> By the 1930s, however, Melbourne's interests had moved away from Australian constitutional history to a focus on Australia's relationship with Asia. Controversially, in 1938, Melbourne was pivotal in bringing Seita Ryonosuke to the University of Queensland. Seita was interned after the outbreak of war with Japan in December 1941, suspected of being a spy.

Outside of his work at the University of Queensland, Melbourne's most notable contribution was in the critical role he played in establishing the Historical Society of Queensland, now the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland remains the peak

<sup>22</sup> 'Some of Brisbane's Newer Homes,' *The Queenslander*, 9 June 1927, p. 22; "'Hy-Trees and Tall Timber,' *The Telegraph*, 10 November 1936, p. 22; 'New Home on Hillside,' *Sunday Mail*, 11 December 1938, p. 18.

<sup>23</sup> Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *A Directory of Queensland Architects to 1940* (St Lucia, QLD: University of Queensland Library, 1984), pp. 192-3.

<sup>24</sup> Helen Gregory, *Vivant Professors: Distinguished Members of the University of Queensland, 1910-1940* (St Lucia, QLD: University of Queensland Library, 1987), p. 101. Also, on Melbourne, see James Cotton, *The Australian School of International Relations* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), pp. 73-93; Malcolm I. Thomis, 'Melbourne, Alexander Clifford Vernon (1888-1943),' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/melbourne-alexander-clifford-vernon-7552/text13177>

<sup>25</sup> Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, p. 99.

<sup>26</sup> For recent examples, see Ann Courthoys, 'The Dog that didn't Bark: The Durham Report, Indigenous Dispossession, and Self-Government for Britain's Settle Colonies' in Karen Dubinsky, Adele Perry and Henry Yu (eds.), *Within and Without the Nation: Canadian History as Transnational History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015), pp. 25-48; Ann Courthoys and Jessie Mitchell, *Taking Liberty: Indigenous Rights and Settler Self-Government in Colonial Australia, 1830-1890* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

<sup>27</sup> Malcolm Thomis, *A Place of Light and Learning: The University of Queensland First Seventy-Five Years* (St Lucia, QLD: University of Queensland Press, 1985), p. 113.



learned society for historians working and researching the history of Queensland. In 1913, alongside F.W.S. Cumbrae-Stewart, Melbourne, played a central role in creating the Historical Society of Queensland. Melbourne was the Secretary to the provisional committee established to draw up plans for the Historical Society of Queensland. Key amongst these plans was drafting a *Proposal for the Establishment of a Society to be Called the Historical Society of Queensland*. This foundational document read very similarly to an anonymous article Melbourne had published in *The Queenslander* three weeks before the first meeting of the Society. As such, a 'good, if not better case' can be made that Melbourne was more significant in the foundation of the Historical Society of Queensland than Cumbrae-Stewart.<sup>28</sup> This was because the style of *The Queenslander* article showed 'clearly that it was written by the same man who had drafted the *Proposal*.'<sup>29</sup> Moreover, as well as being the first Honorary Secretary of the Historical Society of Queensland, importantly, as a member of the academic staff at the University of Queensland, Melbourne delivered the Society's inaugural lecture on 18 August 1913 on the subject of 'Methods of Historical Research.'<sup>30</sup> As well as delivering this lecture, Melbourne became well known for his various public lectures and newspaper articles on various historical subjects.

### The construction and ownership of 38 Archer Street

The Arts and Crafts inspired property at 38 Archer Street – called *Dillondene* – was built for another noted University of Queensland academic, Professor Bertram Dillon Steele. Built by 1925, this is the home where Steele would live until he died in 1934. *Dillondene* was a physical manifestation of Steele's success both at the University of Queensland and externally. The Steele family owned *Dillondene* until 1944, when it was transferred to the Union Trustee Company of Australia Ltd. after Bertram's wife Amy died. Another good example of an Arts and Crafts house in that *Dillondene* includes design elements, such as informal window arrangements and infilled gables.

In 1910, on the establishment of the University of Queensland, Steele, born in 1870 in Plymouth in Great Britain, was elected the foundation Professor of Chemistry at the University; he was one of the first four Professors appointed at the University.<sup>31</sup> Steele had emigrated to Victoria in 1889, where he studied at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, now part of Monash University. Steele graduated in 1891. In 1897, after a year of being enrolled as a medical student at the University of Melbourne, he moved over to study sciences. He graduated in 1899 with first-class honours that marked the start of a brilliant career in chemistry. Awarded the '1851 Exhibition Scholarship' from the University of Adelaide, Steele went to London and then Breslau, Germany, to gain further experience.<sup>32</sup> Before arriving at the University of Queensland, Steele worked at University College London, McGill University Montreal, Harriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and the University of Melbourne, reflecting the strong connections between the higher education systems of Great Britain and other parts of the British Empire. After making a significant contribution to the establishment of the Chemistry department at the University of Queensland, including persuading the 'Senate that a new [science] building was necessary,' Steele returned to Great Britain in 1915. This was so Steele could support the British Empire's war effort during the First World War. During the First World War, Steele served as a technical advisor to the Explosives Branch of the Ministry of Munitions.<sup>33</sup> Here,

<sup>28</sup> Peter Biskup, 'The Politics of Preserving the Past: The Early Years of The Historical Society of Queensland,' *Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland* 13, no. 8 (1988), p. 291.

<sup>29</sup> Biskup, 'The Politics of Preserving the Past,' p. 291.

<sup>30</sup> C.G. Austin, 'The Historical Society of Queensland,' *Historical Society of Queensland Journal* 6, no. 1 (1959), p. 228.

<sup>31</sup> Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, p. 150; D.O.M., 'Bertram Dillon Steele, 1870-1934,' *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society* 1, no. 3 (1934), p. 345; Barry Chiswell, 'Steele, Bertram Dillon (1870-1934)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/steele-bertram-dillon-8638/text15095>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 29 November 2021

<sup>32</sup> Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, pp. 150-1; D.O.M., 'Bertram Dillon Steele, 1870-1934,' p. 345.

<sup>33</sup> D.O.M., 'Bertram Dillon Steele, 1870-1934,' p. 346.



Steele played a vital role in creating a synthetic phenol factory in Ellesmere, England and developed a more effective gas mask.<sup>34</sup>

On returning to the University of Queensland in 1919, he became closely involved with the administration of the University, including serving as a member of the Senate during the 1920s. Unfortunately, during the 1920s, Steele's health declined. Nevertheless, he continued to play a prominent role both within the University of Queensland and externally. While Steele opposed the relocation of the University of Queensland to St Lucia, he played an essential role in key developments, such as chairing a select committee established to examine the expansion and future organisation of the University.<sup>35</sup> Most significantly, in 1923, Steele served as the Chairman for the Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into Certain Matters Relating to the Prickly-Pear Problem.<sup>36</sup> The Royal Commission's recommendations were incorporated into *The Prickly-pear Land Act*, which was passed in 1923. This act sought to manage the growth of prickly pears in Queensland through the appointment of a Land Commission to manage the problem.

Amongst Steele's many accolades included being made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1919. For many years, he was the only Fellow of the Royal Society residing in Queensland. In 1931, just after retiring in December 1930, Steele was made the University of Queensland's first Emeritus Professor in recognition of his work and service.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, Steele Building, part of the University of Queensland's Great Court and completed in 1940, is named after Steele. Finally, in 1982, the University of Queensland established an annual lecture named after Steele.

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<sup>34</sup> Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, p. 152.

<sup>35</sup> Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, pp. 152-3.

<sup>36</sup> 'A Queensland Curse,' *The Telegraph*, 6 February 1923, p. 2; Gregory, *Vivant Professors*, p. 153.

<sup>37</sup> Thomis, *A Place of Light and Learning*, p. 117.



## DESCRIPTION

Located in Toowong, Archer Street comprises three distinctive and intact examples of houses built between the First and Second World Wars designed in the Arts and Crafts and American Colonial architectural styles. Each example is located on a large, sloping property with rear frontages along the Brisbane River. Collectively they are important for their architectural qualities and contribution to the streetscape and riverfront. The houses include:

- 30 Archer Street, Toowong (American Colonial)
- *Millers*, 32 Archer Street, Toowong (Arts and Crafts)
- *Dillondene*, 38 Archer Street, Toowong (Arts and Crafts)

Despite two of the three houses expressing characteristics of the Arts and Crafts architectural style, they are distinctive from one another in their design approach and composition. The remaining house, 30 Archer Street, is an intact architectural style rarely seen in Brisbane. Together, the houses exhibit unity in their scale and form but retain variations of materials and architectural expression particular to their respective styles. The houses and their garden settings collectively create a distinct and cohesive residential context in the street and on the river's edge.

### General description

The houses are highly visible on the street, demonstrating a collective aesthetic appeal and spatial unity through their design and planning. Established gardens setting, uniform setbacks, scale and a distinctive tiled roofscape are dominant features on Archer Street that, together, create a coherent and unified street context. Open garden space with established planting is contained behind a line of fencing and formal hedging.

Occupying an elevated ridgeline, the houses are setback from the river to create a contiguous garden setting that falls to the river's edge below.

### 30 Archer Street

30 Archer Street is a two-storey, timber house constructed in the American Colonial architectural style. Originally square in plan, the house has a steep-pitch, cross hip-and-gable roof. The Archer Street elevation is asymmetrical, with a formalised window arrangement and a recessed entry porch under the main gable, right of the central hip.

Originally, the rear of the house extended to the eastern-most edge of the main gable, with a short hip-roofed projection towards the Brisbane River. The building, including the hip-roofed projection, has since been extended towards the river.

The roof is tiled with Marseille tiles. Eaves of the hipped roof elements are narrow, and the verges of the gable ends are eave-less with weatherboard infill. From floor height to eave line, external walls are clad in weatherboard. An original brick chimney on the south elevation remains.

Original window and door openings remain, with a mixture of window types. The Archer Street elevation has several multi-paned double-hung sash windows with timber joinery. As is characteristic of the American Colonial style, a large, centralised window on Archer Street includes timber shutters. However, multi-paned casement windows with timber joinery are the predominant window type. Deep, Marseille-tiled eaves shade windows located on the gable ends.



A non-original, low-height masonry fence and tall hedging enclose the garden to the front of the house and partially obscure views to the place from Archer Street. The large tree on the Archer Street boundary appears in historical aerials and is likely original. A carport with a Marseille tile roof was approved for construction in 1956 and obscures much of the Archer Street elevation from some vantage points.

### **Millers, 32 Archer Street**

32 Archer Street is a two-storey, masonry house primarily constructed in the Arts and Craft architectural style. It is generally rectangular in plan, with a conspicuous hip-and-gable roof. The Archer Street elevation is asymmetrical, including an informal window arrangement and an offset, flat-roofed entry porch with square columns. Entry to the porch is via a set of concrete stairs.

Historical aerials indicate that the rear of the house extended only as far as the verge of the main gable. Over time, building works have further extended the house towards the river.

The hip-and-gable roof is tiled with Marseille tiles, with prominent, timber-lined eaves and expressed eave brackets. Gable verges are prominently finished with edge roof tiles, and side-facing gables are infilled with half-timbering. Original photographs of the house show that the northern dormer window and chimney are non-original.<sup>38</sup> External walls have a roughcast render finish from floor height to eave line and a single diamond brick motif on the Archer Street elevation.

Original window and door opening locations remain. There is a large rectangular bay window on the ground floor of the Archer Street elevation, with timber joinery casement windows, concrete sills, and geometric lead lighting. A smaller but similarly detailed casement window arrangement sits next to the bay window. Eaves above the ground floor windows are deep, flat and sheet lined.

A notable feature of the Archer Street elevation is the glazed, arched door and balcony on the upper floor. The deeply inset, timber-framed door has matching leadlight patterning to the windows below. A shallow, concrete balcony with a solid balustrade is supported by splayed, expressed beams.

A non-original palisade fence with masonry piers encloses the garden to the front of the house, with a stucco finish and masonry capping. An original photograph of the house shows similarly styled piers, though in different locations with a timber rail and wire infill. Current plantings, pools and decks are non-original.<sup>39</sup>

### **Dillondene, 38 Archer Street**

Like its neighbour, 38 Archer Street is two-storey masonry house constructed in the Arts and Craft architectural style. It is rectangular in plan, with a combined Dutch gable and hip roof. The house is asymmetrical from Archer Street and includes an informal window arrangement and two street-facing gables, with the northern-most gable further set back. A semi-enclosed entry porch is located beneath the northern gable.

Indicated by historical aerials, the rear of the house originally extended just beyond the eastern edge of the existing hipped roof and included a gable. Additions have been made to the house, including extensions towards the Brisbane River and several garage entries under the southern gable.

The roof is tiled with Marseille tiles and has prominent eaves with exposed rafters. Gables are infilled with half-timbering, with timber-lined eaves and expressed ridge beams. From floor height to

<sup>38</sup> 'New Residence at Toowong for A.C.V. Melbourne, Esq,' p. 60.

<sup>39</sup> 'New Residence at Toowong for A.C.V. Melbourne, Esq,' p. 60.



eave line, the Archer Street elevation is brick veneer masonry (ca. 1983), while side elevations are predominantly clad in weatherboard.

Original window and door opening locations remain; however, most windows have been replaced with non-original, timber-framed casement windows. Some original timber-framed windows with geometric leadlight patterning have survived and are concentrated between the street-facing gables. Where brick veneer walls exist, windowsills are brick and are non-original.

A non-original brick fence and metal gates enclose the garden on Archer Street and the paved car parking area on the southern boundary. Several, detached structures have been added to the grounds, including an entry gazebo with brick columns and a Marseille tiled roof, a pergola with brick columns and timber rafters in front of the southern gable and a Marseille-tiled carport on the southern boundary. Plantings are non-original.

### Significant features

Features of cultural heritage significance include:

#### Collective features

- Views to the collection of houses from Archer Street
- Views to the collection of houses from Brisbane River
- Collective aesthetic appeal
- Uniform scale
- Consistent setbacks and contiguous garden setting (front and back)
- Open garden space with established planting
- Distinctive tiled roofscape

### 30 Archer Street

- Large, mature tree on Archer Street
- Enclosed front garden on Archer Street
- The original location, set back and orientation of the house
- Two-storey, cross hip-and-gable roof form
- Asymmetrical composition of Archer Street elevation
- Location of the recessed entry porch
- Marseille tile roofing material
- Narrow eaves
- Weatherboard cladding on external walls
- Original door and window openings
- Original timber-framed, multi-pane double-hung sash windows including timber sills

- Original timber-framed, multi-pane casement windows including timber sills
- Window eaves, including Marseille tiles
- Timber window shutters

#### **Millers, 32 Archer Street**

- Permeable fencing on Archer Street
- The original location, set back and orientation of the house
- Two-storey, hip-and-gable form
- Asymmetrical composition of Archer Street elevation
- Offset entry porch, including flat roof and square columns
- Marseille tile roofing material, including gable verges
- Half-timbered gable infill on original gables
- Timber-lined eaves, including expressed eave brackets
- Roughcast render finish on external walls
- Brick wall motif
- Original door and window openings
- The original rectangular bay window on the ground floor
- Original timber-framed casement windows with geometric lead-light patterned glazing and concrete sills
- Flat, lined eaves above windows
- Original timber-framed arched door on the upper floor, including lead-light patterned glazing
- Concrete balcony, including solid balustrade and splayed support beams

#### **Dillondene, 38 Archer Street**

- The original location, set back and orientation of the house
- Two-storey, Dutch gable, and hip roof form
- Asymmetrical composition of Archer Street elevation, including gable offset
- Location of the main entry
- Marseille tile roofing material
- Half-timbered gable infill and expressed ridge beams
- Prominent eaves, including exposed rafters
- Timber-lined eaves
- Weatherboard cladding on external walls

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- Original door and window openings
- Original timber-framed casement windows with geometric leadlight patterned glazing

### Non-significant features

Non-significant features include:

#### 30 Archer Street

- Non-original additions, including:
  - c. 1956 carport, including driveway surface
  - Any additions beyond the eastern most edge of the main gable towards the Brisbane River
- Low-height masonry fence, including hedge infill
- Plantings not consistent with original plantings and design

#### Millers, 32 Archer Street

- Non-original additions, including:
  - Chimney
  - Dormer windows
  - Garage infill beneath the house on the south boundary
  - Any additions beyond the verge of the main gable towards the Brisbane River
- Metal palisade and concrete pier fence on Archer Street
- Plantings not consistent with original plantings and design

#### Dillondene, 38 Archer Street

- Non-original additions, including:
  - Brick veneer
  - Garage infill beneath the house on the south boundary
  - Any additions beyond the verge of the hip roof towards the Brisbane River
- Non-original window glazing and joinery
- Non-original structures, including:
  - Entry gazebo, including brick columns and Marseille tiles
  - Brick and timber pergola
  - Carport, including Marseille tiles
- Brick fencing, including metal gates

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- Plantings not consistent with original plantings and design



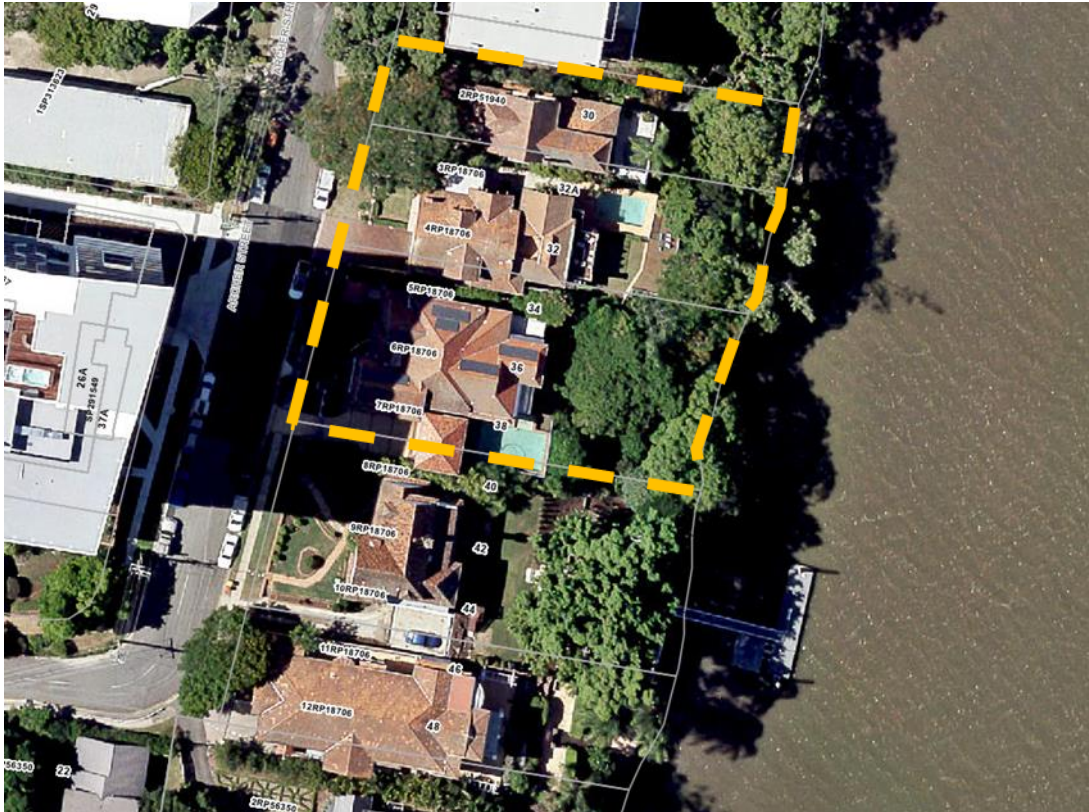
## CURTILAGE

The curtilage captures all significant or original elements of the place as described and identified on the map below.

Archer Street comprises three holdings, ranging in area from 670m<sup>2</sup> to 1305m<sup>2</sup>, with an average lot size of 960m<sup>2</sup>. The total grouping of Archer Street covers an area of 2880m<sup>2</sup>.

The group of significant houses on Archer Street includes the following holdings:

- 30 Archer Street, Toowong
- 32 Archer Street, Toowong
- 38 Archer Street, Toowong



Source: Brisbane City Plan Online Mapping

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## STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<p><b>Criterion A Historical</b></p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>Constructed between 1923 and 1937, this intact group of Arts and Crafts and American Colonial-style houses, including one designed by noted Brisbane architect E.P. Trewern, collectively illustrate the development of housing for notable citizens along the Brisbane River during the interwar period. Located on a ridgeline overlooking the Brisbane River, the houses and their garden settings establish a distinctive and cohesive residential context as viewed from the street and river.</p>
<p><b>Criterion B Rarity</b></p> <p>The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion C Scientific</b></p> <p>The place has the potential to provide information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion D Representative</b></p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places.</p>	<p>As intact examples of Arts and Craft and American Colonial style housing that became popular in the construction of high-quality housing in the period between Federation and the Second World Wars, the group of houses between 30 and 38 Archer Street demonstrate the principal design elements, construction techniques and materials associated with these styles. As expressed in the citation's description, these elements include, but are not limited to, the asymmetrical composition of the Archer Street elevation, Marseille tile roofing material, and weatherboard cladding (30 and 38 Archer Street) or roughcast render (32 Archer Street) finish on external walls.</p>
<p><b>Criterion E Aesthetic</b></p> <p>The place is important because of its aesthetic significance</p>	<p>Constructed in the Arts and Crafts and American Colonial architectural styles, this intact group of houses built on Archer Street between the First and Second World Wars demonstrates collective aesthetic importance for their architectural styles, contributing to the streetscape and the riverscape views from and across the Brisbane River. As outlined in the citation's</p>

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	<p>description, the value of these houses is provided by the collective unity of their garden setting, scale, form and roofing materials, that creates a cohesive aesthetic in the streetscape and to and from the river. Uniform setbacks and open, fenced garden spaces, which allow the house frontages to be seen from Archer Street, create a unified, residential setting of domestic-scale houses. Collectively, the complex Marseille-tiled roof arrangement of the houses establishes a striking roofscape as viewed from the street, and their location on an elevated ridgeline allows for prominent views from across the river. To the rear, the blocks slope down to the river, and the houses sit within a contiguous garden of mature vegetation that unifies the setting.</p>
<p><b>Criterion F Technical</b></p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion G Social</b></p> <p>The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion H Historical Association</b></p> <p>The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the city's or local area's history</p>	<p>The houses at 32 (<i>Millers</i>) and 38 (<i>Dillondene</i>) Archer Street have a special association with noted University of Queensland academics, Professor Bertram Steele and Associate Professor Alexander Clifford Vernon Melbourne. As expressed in the citation's history, both houses are physical manifestations of Steele's and Melbourne's respective successes as early academics who were influential in shaping the University of Queensland in the early 20th Century. <i>Dillondene</i> was built for Steele, who was foundation Professor of Chemistry when the University opened in 1910, and in 1923 was Chairman of the Royal Commission that led to the passing of the Prickly-pear Land Act. <i>Millers</i> was constructed for Melbourne, an Associate Professor in History and Economics, who played a leading role in the establishment in 1913 of The Historical Society of Queensland, later named The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.</p>



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