

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Kirribilli – House, Garage and Gate Posts

PLACE NO.: 26300

ADDRESS: 7 The Common, Beaumont SA 5066

Physical Description

This house is designed in the Dutch Colonial style. Built of clinker bricks and rendered, it is symmetrical and features the characteristic twin Dutch gables of this style at the front, with circular windows and window heads, a Marseilles tiled roof with large overhanging eaves, and an arched surround to the rendered entry porch. It has two tall rendered chimneys with Marseilles tiled caps and the exterior window ledges are also tiled. The porch and upper parts of the gables are covered in ivy and the landscaped garden, which retains the original layout, features circular beds and Grecian urns on pedestals.

The interior of the house retains its original layout, which comprises the entry porch and corridors, three bedrooms, a sleepout, a bathroom, toilet, sewing room (now storage room), billiard room with original billiard table, living room, dining room, kitchen with access to under-floor cellar, laundry, maid's bedroom and bathroom and maid's sitting room. There are two verandahs at the rear.

Some original furnishings have also been retained, including the light switches and fittings, and some curtain rails. The fireplaces are original, although some of the brickwork has been rendered. The tradesman's entrance is on the eastern side of the house. The two tanks on the tank stand at the rear of the house have been replaced and behind these is the original double garage, built of the same material as the house, with sliding timber doors. Although John Scammell made some minor changes, such as installing air conditioning in his office at the rear of the house and removing some rose beds in the garden, the exterior of the house and much of the interior are in original condition. The garage is brick with Marseilles tiled roof, and the two pairs of gate posts are also constructed of brick.

Statement of Heritage Significance

Kirribilli is a significant example of the Dutch Colonial style in South Australia and an important representative of the residential design of notable South Australian architect Gavin Lawson. Not only introducing a new style for inter-War residences, Lawson's Kirribilli also used clinker bricks, a non-traditional material introduced by Lawson that became popular during the Depression years. Given its unusual features and the quality of its design and construction, Kirribilli is also a notable representative of residential design and construction in the inter-War period. The front gate-posts and original garage located at the rear of the generous block contribute to the setting of the main house.

Relevant Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Kirribilli is a rare and outstanding example of the inter-War Dutch Colonial style. It features the twin Dutch gables at the front that are characteristic of this style, with circular windows and window heads, a Marseilles tiled roof with large overhanging eaves, and an arched surround to the rendered entry porch. It is constructed of clinker bricks, a non-traditional material introduced by the architect. The exterior of the house and much of the interior, including the room layout and some internal fixtures, are in original condition.

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Kirribilli has special associations with the work of noted architect George Gavin Lawson, designer of a number of prominent public buildings in the 1920s, including the Hartley Building and the Teachers Training College on Kintore Avenue.

Lawson emigrated from Scotland to Australia via South Africa, where he was influenced by the Dutch Colonial style. In Adelaide, he worked in the Architect-in-Chief's Department and designed a number of public buildings before setting up his own practice, in which he designed many notable private residences. Kirribilli is a rare example of a residence designed in the Dutch Colonial style and also uses the non-traditional material of clinker bricks which were introduced by Lawson. Lawson was a founding partner of Gavin Lawson and Cheesman (later Lawson, Cheesman and Doley), one of Adelaide's largest and most respected architectural firms.

Extent of Listing

The components that are integral to the heritage significance of Kirribilli include:

- House: all original 1930 fabric including rendered brick walls, gables, openings, Marseilles tiled roof, porch, chimneys, tiled chimney caps, and tiled window ledges.

- Garage: brick walls, original openings and Marseilles tiled roof.
- Two pairs of brick and masonry gate posts to front of property.

The extent of listing excludes internal fixtures and fittings, front hedge and plants growing over house.

History of the Place

House and original ownership

Kirribilli was built in 1930 for Alfred Faulding Scammell, one of two sons of Luther Robert Scammell, who was famous for his work as a manufacturing chemist with F H Faulding & Co. In 1921 F H Faulding & Co. became a private company, with Scammell as Chairman of Directors and Managing Director until 1935, when daily management passed to his son, Alfred. Luther Robert continued as Chairman until his death in 1940. Alfred Scammell's nephew, John Scammell, purchased the house from his uncle's estate in 1979. When he died in 2005 the house passed to his wife, Nancy.

The property is called Kirribilli after Kirribilli Point in Sydney, where Luther Robert Scammell and his brother had rented a residence from about 1900, while managing the business there. The exterior and interior of the house remains largely intact. The original front gate was a farm gate with timber posts where the gate posts and cast iron gate are now located, and the fence was post and rail.

The architect

The architect for Alfred Scammell's residence was George Gavin Lawson, who arrived in Adelaide in 1921 at the age of 39. Lawson was educated in Edinburgh and apprenticed to the Edinburgh firm of Hamilton, Paterson and Sir Duncan J Lind before emigrating to South Africa, where he practised at Johannesburg, Pretoria and Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe) for seven years before emigrating to Melbourne.

In 1921, he moved to Adelaide and was employed as Assistant Chief Draftsman in the Architect-in-Chief's Department, where his projects included the original Dental Hospital at the University of Adelaide on Frome Road in 1922 and the Bice Building for the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1923 (inter-war Free Classical style). His design for the Teachers Training College on Kintore Avenue in 1924 introduced a new style, the Dutch Colonial style, to South Australia (Page, 1986, p. 141). This is the Hartley building, originally Adelaide Teachers College at the University of Adelaide (SAHR), completed in 1927. Although it has been described as being designed in the inter-war Mediterranean Style (Bruce Harry & Associates Conservation Plan 1992), it is definitely Dutch Colonial in style. This was an early and unusual example of the use of this style in a large institutional building in Adelaide. An *Advertiser* article of 27 March 1929 stated:

As a result of a sojourn in South Africa [Lawson] was influenced to use Dutch gables, and an elevation that gave deep shadows, when designing the handsome red-tile roofed Teachers Training College With its circular windowheads and large overhanging eaves, the building was the forerunner of its style in this State. Mr Lawson is of the opinion that the Dutch style of architecture is more suitable for this climate than the bungalow. He has embodied it in some of his designs (quoted in Page, 1986, p. 141).

Lawson was a forward-thinking architect, who attempted to move away from the more traditional styles of architecture. He was involved in a variety of new city buildings as well as a number of residences and commercial buildings. In 1929, Lawson introduced the use of discarded clinker bricks for internal and external facework on residences, and these became very popular in the Depression due to their low cost. His 1931 design of F H Faulding's Thebarton laboratories probably followed on from the 1930 design of the Scammell residence.

Although proficient in the use of other styles, Lawson preferred to use the Dutch Colonial style, which he had acquired while working in South Africa. Examples of designs in this style, other than the Scammell residence, include the Teachers' Training College (mentioned above); the McRoberts residence at Glenunga; and the Leaver residence at Hazelwood Park. As well as being an advocate for the use of local materials, he emphasized the importance of design suited to the Australian climate and regarded the Dutch Colonial style, with its front porches, wide eaves and garden layouts as particularly suitable.

References

This Record has been adapted from the assessment report in:

- Twentieth Century Survey Vol 2 (2008) by Peter Bell, Carol Cosgrove, Susan Marsden & Justin McCarthy.

Refer to the survey for a more detailed historical description and list of references. Additional references include:

- Hamish Angas, 'Lawson, George Gavin (1882–1953)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography online* <www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150084b.htm>
- Peter Donovan, 'Luther Robert Scammell' in John Healy (ed), *SA's Greats, The Men and Women of the North Terrace Plaques*, Historical Society of South Australia, 2002.
- Julie Collins, 'Lawson, Gavin George, 1882–1953', Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design
- Nancy and Peter Scammell, pers comm., 2006 & 2007.

SITE RECORD

Kirribilli – House, Garage and Gate Posts
7 The Common, Beaumont

PLACE NO: 26300

FORMER NAME:	N/A	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	A single-storey residence of rendered masonry with distinctive Dutch gables and a Marseilles tiled roof. Also brick garage with tiled roof, and two pairs of brick gate-posts to front of property.	
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1930	
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description:	Confirmed
	Date:	23 August 2013
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	Local Heritage Place, 2005	External form and fabric and brick gateposts.
CURRENT USE:	Description:	Residence
	Dates:	1930 to present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description:	N/A
	Dates:	N/A
ARCHITECT:	Name:	George Gavin Lawson
	Dates:	1929
BUILDER:	Name:	unknown
	Dates:	1930
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description:	City of Burnside
LOCATION:	Unit No.:	–
	Street No.:	7
	Street Name:	The Common
	Town/Suburb:	Beaumont
	Post Code:	5066
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type:	CT
	Volume:	5452
	Folio:	66
	Lot No.:	2
	Section:	Part Sec 296
	Hundred:	Adelaide

PHOTOS

Kirribilli – House, Garage and Gate Posts
7 The Common, Beaumont

PLACE NO: 26300



Scammell residence, Beaumont, looking north



Scammell residence, Beaumont, looking north-west

SITE PLAN

Kirribilli – House, Garage and Gate Posts
7 The Common, Beaumont

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Site plan showing location of house, garage and gate posts.