

RESIDENCE AND FLAT, 3 AND 3A PROSPECT ROAD, PROSPECT

C20 05

Place Name and Address: Residence and Flat, 3 and 3A Prospect Road,
Prospect SA 5082

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUE:

Description:

This is a two-storey, three bedroom residence of rendered brick, with a pitched, clay tile roof, finished in Art Deco style. Elements of this style include a 'streamlined' front, designed in geometric curves, with concrete motifs. The interior of the house is also designed in the Art Deco style, with plaster motifs on walls and fireplaces, ornate fibrous plaster ceilings, and built-in and separate timber furniture. The polished timber floors throughout the house were previously carpeted, with Art Deco motifs in the carpets, now removed. There are Art Deco motifs in the terrazzo floors at the front and rear entrances, and in the upstairs bathroom and balcony. The smaller two-storey building at the eastern (rear) end of the block is also of rendered brick, finished in Art Deco style. The ground floor comprises a large garage at the front and a room that has been converted to a laundry at the rear. The first floor is used as a flat and retains a number of internal Art Deco features. The front of the building is decorated with motifs in the 'Jazz' style.

Statement of Heritage Value:

The residence at 3 Prospect Road is a fine example, both externally and internally, of the Art Deco style of architecture as applied to residences. The house (c. 1938) and flat (1936) were built by the architect Christopher A Smith as his own residence and workshop. Smith worked from the flat and it is thought that he used the house, which was located in a prominent position on Prospect Road, as a showpiece for potential clients. Some of the plaster moulds in the house are replicated in Smith's public buildings. Although he did not train as an architect, Smith built up a reputation for designing cinemas and council buildings and was probably the most prolific user of the Art Deco style in Adelaide. He was an important civic architect and his works include the Capri Theatre at Goodwood, council buildings at Port Adelaide and Brighton, and a new façade at Hindmarsh Town Hall.

Relevant Criteria (Under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*):

- (e) It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment as an early application of the Modern style to domestic architecture
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RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the residence and flat/garage at 3 and 3A Prospect Road be provisionally entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

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

The house and flat at 3 Prospect Road, Prospect, were designed by architect Chris Smith as his own home and workshop. Smith was a carpenter who appears to have had no formal architectural training and was not a member of the South Australian Institute of Architects. Nevertheless he operated as an architect and designed many of the new public buildings in Adelaide in the 1920s and 1930s. He commenced his career working on picture theatres, first as works foreman for the York Theatre (1921) on the corner of Rundle Street and Gawler Place (demolished 1961), then as supervising architect for the Austral Picture Palace at Kilkenny (1922), and as architect for the Ozone theatre at Alberton (1924), the Princess (later the Chelsea) in 1924 at Marryatville, the Garden Theatre at Colonel Light Gardens (1926) and the Ozone at Enfield (1926). He was also involved in alterations and additions to picture theatres and hotels in both Adelaide and regional South Australia. He altered and extended the Semaphore Town Hall for use as a picture theatre (1929) and designed the Semaphore Soldier's Memorial Hall at the same time.

Prior to 1930 Smith designed the town halls for Clare and Peterborough and an Institute building at Warradale. He was the architect for a theatre/town hall for the Hindmarsh Council in 1936, in which the original stone portico was removed and all the buildings were refaced in Art Deco style. Following this, he designed municipal offices and council chambers at Brighton (1938) and Port Adelaide in (1939), both in the Art Deco style. He designed the Capri Theatre at Goodwood, initially known as the Goodwood Star, in 1941. In the same year it is believed he was the architect for an administration building for British Tube Mills at Kilburn. He may also have designed the first administration building for the company in 1939.

Smith's status as an architect was disparaged by other established architects. Reasons for this include a general disdain by traditional architects for the commercial Art Deco style, for which Smith was able to obtain many commissions, and some personal animosity towards him because it was felt that he received a large amount of work due to his brother's position as State Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment. When he applied for registration under the 1939 Architects Registration Act he was rejected and did not appear in the first list of Registered Architects in 1941. After reapplying in 1941, he was accepted and appeared in the 1942 list.

Smith lived at Second Avenue, Cheltenham from 1919 and advertised as a carpenter. From 1922 he operated as an architect and structural engineer from National Bank Chambers in King William Street. After a year, he moved his practice to Waterhouse Chambers at 44 King William Street until 1932. He then operated from offices in Currie Street before moving to Prospect and lived in a house next door to the present 3 Prospect Road. It was from here that he designed the flat at 3 Prospect Road in the 'Jazz' Art Deco style in 1936. He also designed the house facing Prospect Road on the

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same allotment in the 'streamlined' style of Art Deco. The exact date of completion is not known, but it is thought to have been built after the flat, in about 1938.

Smith's commissions diminished as the Second World War progressed, as was the case with most other architects, and he replaced his brother as State Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment in 1942. Smith remained at the address in Prospect, ceasing to practice in 1950, until his death in 1952 at the age of 60. After his death, his widow, Irene, sold most of the block to the next door neighbour, Lydia Booth, and the house was made into flats. It later became a residence again and was renovated in the original style (but not colours) by owner/designer, Sassi, in the early 2000s. It is currently owned by the Mayor of Prospect, David O'Loughlin, and his wife, Alison, who initiated an Art Deco Society in South Australia in 2007.

The residence at 3 Prospect Road is located in a prominent position on the corner of Prospect Road and Carter Street. It is built of rendered brick, with a pitched, clay tile roof, and finished in Art Deco style. The front of the house is designed in the 'streamlined' style, with geometric curves and concrete motifs. The interior of the house is also designed in the Art Deco style, with plaster motifs on walls and fireplaces, ornate fibrous plaster ceilings, and built-in and separate timber furniture, including timber bedside tables in the main bedroom and a built-in dining booth in the kitchen. Some of the plaster moulds on the walls and ceiling are replicated in Smith's other designs, eg, in the Capri theatre.

The upstairs bathroom also has Art Deco features incorporated into the tiles and vents. The floors were previously carpeted with Art Deco motifs in the carpets, but these have been removed and the original timber floors under the carpet have been polished. The terrazzo floors at the front and rear entrances, in the upstairs bathroom and the balcony, all have Art Deco motifs. The former laundry downstairs has been updated to a new bathroom and no longer includes Art Deco features. The house is in good repair, except for some deterioration in the terrazzo floor at the front entrance due to salt damp.

The two-storey flat/garage at the eastern (rear) end of the block (3A Prospect Road) is also of rendered brick, finished in Art Deco style. The front of the building is decorated with motifs in the 'Zig Zag' or 'Jazz' style. The ground floor comprises a large garage at the front and a room that has been converted to a laundry at the rear. The first floor is used as a flat and retains a number of internal Art Deco features, including a fireplace in the living room in similar style to the one in the house. The original plan for this building hangs on a frame in the hall.

REFERENCES:

Christine Landorf, , 'Art Deco: Adelaide Architect, Chris A. Smith', 1983
Alison McDougall, 'Smith, Christopher', Architecture Museum database, UniSA
David and Alison O'Loughlin, owners of 3 Prospect Road, pers. comm., October 2007
CT 2156/74

SITE RECORD:

FORMER NAME: n/a

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: Two storey Art Deco residence with separate two story flat/garage, also in Art Deco style.

DATE OF COMPLETION: 1936 (flat); c. 1938 (residence)

REGISTER STATUS: **Description:** n/a

CURRENT USE: **Description:** Residence and flat
Dates: 1936–present

PREVIOUS USE(S): **Description:** n/a
Dates:

ARCHITECT: **Name:** Chris A Smith
Dates: 1936/1937

BUILDER: **Name:**
Dates: Residence:1938 & flat:1936

SUBJECT INDEXING: **Group:** Residential
Category: House

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: **Description:** Prospect City Council

LOCATION: **Unit No.:** 3 and 3A
Street No.: 3
Street Name: Prospect Road
Town/Suburb: Prospect
Post Code: 5082
Region No.: 2
Region: Metropolitan Adelaide

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title Type:** CT
Volume: 5193
Folio: 306
Lot No.: 3
Section: 348
Hundred: Yatala

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SITE RECORD (Cont.):

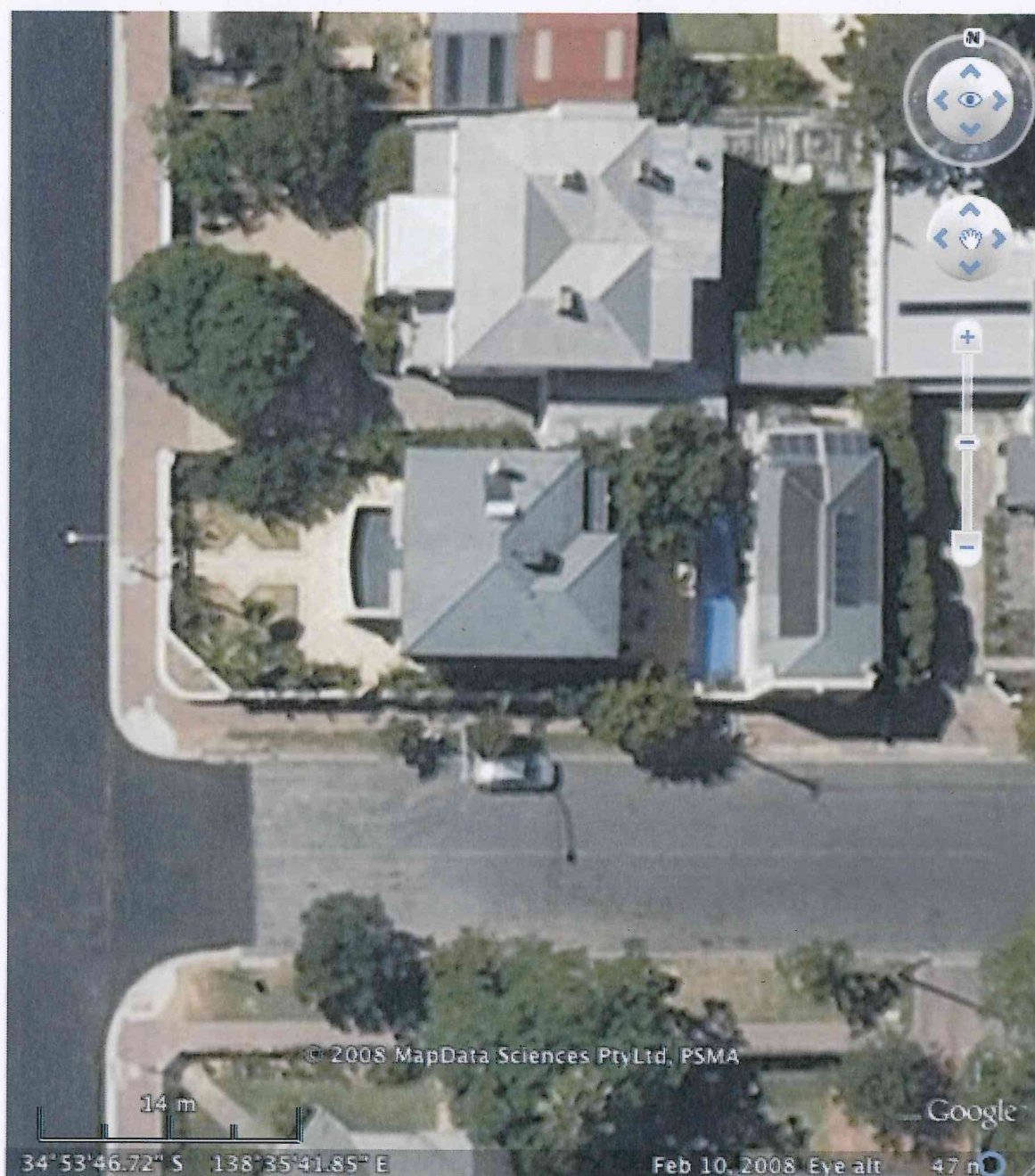
AMG REFERENCE:

Zone: 54
Easting: 280210
Northing: 6135700
Map Sheet: 6628 Adelaide
Map Scale: 1:100,000

OWNER:

Name: David & Alison O'Loughlin
Address: 3 Prospect Road
Town/Suburb: Prospect
Post Code: 5082

Location Map



Aerial view of 3 and 3A Prospect Road, Prospect

(Google Earth)

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3 Prospect Road, looking north-east



3A Prospect Road, looking north

