Brooklyn House

AHC Category
Archaeological Historic Indigenous Landscape

Y

Address/Location
23 William Street Howard

Title Details / (GPS)
14RP123609

Place Type
Villa

Place Category
Residential

Place Components
Residential accommodation - main house Attic, Fireplace, Chimney/Chimney stack, Dining room, Kitchen/Kitchen house, Lunchroom, Laundry/Wash house, Decorative features, Decorative finishes, Garden/Grounds

Historical Theme(s)
2 managing flora and fauna
2.9 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land
6 dwellings
6.4 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land
6.4 Building settlements, towns, cities and dwellings

Historical Context
Built for William Rankin by Howard carpenter, Stephen Ward, in 1890. Rankin came from Scotland in 1884 as manager of Queensland Colliers Limited coal mine. Originally set on 3 acres of land with gardens, formal drives, bowling green and tennis court. A gate connected the garden to the local Anglican churchyard next door. The house was the centrepiece of social life in Howard in its heyday and is famous for its association with Dame Annabel Rankin, who became the first female senator in Queensland and is recognised as a pioneer in Australian women's politics. She was a successful State and Federal parliamentarian who, after representing the electorate of Burrum for many years in the Queensland State Parliament, became a Liberal Senator for Queensland from 1946-71.

Physical Description
Elite country house built in Colonial style with modifications over the years. High set on timber stumps. Hip iron roof. Encircling 9 foot verandahs on three sides. Timber frame; 8 pine chamferboard cladding. Interior of red cedar. English beech woodwork and marble fittings. Grand front porch extension with double steps. French doors leading into rooms. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting and dining room, study, sun room, kitchen with servants eating room; upstair laundry and attic. Rail balustrades; ornate verandah brackets and decorative fretwork in apex of each gable. Two marble fireplaces and 2 chimneys. Sympathetic garden setting but modified since Rankin ownership.

Integrity
Fair

Condition
Fair

Listings
Register of the National Estate QLD Heritage Register QLD National Trust HBCC Planning Scheme Policy 10

Y

Inspection Date
26/09/2010

References
Archaeo Cultural Heritage Services, Hervey Bay City Cultural Heritage Survey and Assessment, January 2004

Internal Ref
Place ID: S

Entry Date
06 April, 2011

Amended Date

Heritage Significance

A The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history
Statement
Brooklyn House is important in demonstrating the evolution and pattern of the region's history, particularly the significance of coal mining on the Burrum Coalfield and the creation of the town of Howard.

D The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region
Statement
Brooklyn House is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a wealthy colonial residence in the region, in particular, the spatial relationship between the house and St Matthews Church next door and how this reflected the wealth and importance of the Rankin family in Howard.

E The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance
Statement
Brooklyn House is important because of its aesthetic significance, particularly as a good example of an elite colonial-style residence in Howard and the region.

H The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history
Statement
Brooklyn House has a special association with the life and work of William Rankin, who was a major figure in the history of Howard and the coal mining industry in the region, and his daughter Dame Annabel Rankin, who was the first female senator in Queensland.