

BLAIN RESIDENCE (FMR), HIGHGATE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Blain Residence (fmr)
Other names	House, 9 Chatsworth Rd
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	6116
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	9 Chatsworth Rd
Locality	Hlghgate
Survey	LOT: 605 D/P: 57562
Vol/folio	2684/996
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Has some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the place.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 3</p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable.</p> <p>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value as a fine and intact example of the Federation Queen Anne style which is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place reflects the expansion and development of residential buildings on the city fringes during the early years of the twentieth century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Alex Blain who was a significant businessman in the district.</p> <p>The place is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	c1905
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated Metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne
Physical description	<p>The single storey dwelling is of brick construction with symmetrical front façade with twin front gables and central gable in the hipped roof. The gables are richly detailed in timber.</p> <p>The side façade has a gabled wing. There is a separate verandah that extends across the front and side of the bungalow.</p> <p>The verandah is supported by pairs of double posts with sets of triple posts at the corner. The walls are face brick. The tall chimneys are also face brick with corbelled detail and double clay pots.</p> <p>The building resides behind a medium height rendered wall with open metal railing above.</p> <p>A contemporary extension added to the rear of the building. Only the roof is visible from the street.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Chatsworth Road is part of the Highgate Hill subdivision developed by surveyor Charles Crossland in 1874, and named for his birthplace in London. The street was named c1883 by Samuel Copley who further subdivided the land there. Chatsworth in Yorkshire, England was his birthplace. The subdivision was one of the first to be carried out on the north side of Perth. At first it consisted of a small number of workman's cottages, clustered together in a hollow on the eastern side of Beaufort Street. Most of the houses in Chatsworth Road which runs between William and Beaufort streets in Highgate were constructed prior to 1910.

No. 7 (currently known as No. 9) was not shown on the 1900 PWD sewerage plan and there was no No. 7 listed in the 1905 - 1915 Wise's Postal Directories as it was numbered as 11 at that time. A large residence built on one side of a double block, it was then occupied by A Blain & Co, picture framers. It remained as No. 11 until sometime between 1942 and 1944 (there was no Post Office Directory published in 1943) when it was then changed to No. 7. The Blains were still resident in 1949. Mr Blain operated a Picture Framers (A Blain and Co) from the property at then No 7 (which was then referred to as No. 11 Chatsworth Road) between 1910 and c1921 when the business was moved to No. 448 Beaufort Street.

The 1910 Trades and Professionals section of the Wise's Postal Directory indicate that A Blain and Co operated quite a varied business including 'importers of tapestry and chenille goods - lace curtains, hall curtains, table covers, quilts, blankets, sheets: silver ware, cutlery and go-carts: manufacturers of household furnishings, photo enlargers and picture frames'.

Alex Blain came over to Western Australia from Ireland when he was seventeen. Deciding not to settle in Perth initially he moved to California where he had heard that the climate was equal if not better than Perth. It was here that Alex developed his idea of the need for a picture framing business. Alex then decided that the climate in Perth was in fact better than California, so after several years living in the US Alex moved back to Perth. Alex Blain first lived in 27 Chatsworth Road, whilst he was building the subject place. Once moving into this place, what now is the garage operated as the stables for the horses and it is also believed that the lookout was part of the original design of the house as Alex was described as 'a self taught scientist', with a keen interest in astrology. Alex Blain's wife passed away in 1935 and Alex passed away in the subject house in 1948.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Further to conversations with Nick Blain, Alex Blain's grandson in 2006, he stated that Alex owned other property in the Highgate area and in North Beach. Nick recalls that Alex Blain held a keen interest in microbiology and astrology which explains the lookout that was built at the rear of the dwelling. Alex Blain's son, Barney Blain who was to become an Anglican Minister also lived at the dwelling.

Further to a conversation with Dr Geoffrey Gibbs, well known in Perth performing arts circles, he and his wife Carol were tenants of the subject property during the 1980s. Mr Gibbs believes that the place operated briefly as a brothel prior to his occupancy.

The Certificate of Title for the property indicates that Gieuseppe Marafoti, a farmer from Bodallin became the proprietor of the place in 1954 which was then transferred to the current owner Carmela Bramuzzo from Merredin in 1973. In 2007 the subdivision of the property was approved to create two lots. A two storey residence was constructed to the east of the subject dwelling that was once occupied by a garden and stables.

Since then there has been little change in the form or extent of the original residence.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Domestic Life Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Alex Blain and family	Original owners and occupiers
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

