

BROWNE RESIDENCE (FMR), NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION

Place name	Browne Residence (fmr)
Other names	Residence, 306 Charles Street
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING

inHerit ID:	17452
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 09 May 2006

SITE LOCATION

Street address	306 Charles St
Locality	North Perth
Survey	LOT: 100 D/P: 1823
Vol/folio	1911/457
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE

Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value as a fine and intact example of the Inter War California Bungalow style which is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place has historic value as the residence Robert Browne, one of the sons of the founder of Brownes Dairy who were major employers in the district an important to the dairy industry in WA.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its demonstration of the close relationship between the homes of the Browne family and the Browne's factory.</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	1930
Walls	Painted Brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Inter-War Californian Bungalow
Physical description	<p>The single storey dwelling is symmetrical to the front, with a gambrel hipped roof, that features an perpendicular entry porch standing through the full width verandah, which is gently crippled under the main roof. It is supported by pairs of turned timber posts with a flat arched valance and decorative vertical timber balustrade.</p> <p>The clarity of the timber pattern making, set against the plainness of the house and its coolie hat roof, make it an exemplar of the Interwar California Bungalow style, based on a Federation period bungalow model. Slightly elevated behind a low brick and pier fence and gardens and lawn in the setback.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

No. 306 Charles Street North Perth is the former residence of Robert Irwin Browne, of Brownes Ltd. In 1920 after his father Edward Browne established Brownes Milk Factory in the premises of the bankrupt Dairy Farmers Cooperative Ltd in Charles Street, he moved his family into a house at No. 40 Albert Street, which was across from the milk factory. He lived there with his wife Mary (nee Gamble) and their three sons until his death in 1926. Edward's eldest son, Robert Irwin Browne, became the manager of Brownes Ltd.

In 1929, Robert purchased lots 98, 99 & 101 on Charles Street. The rear of this land abuts the site of 40 Albert Street, this was during a period of expansion and change in the Browne's business model.

In 1930, Browne's purchased the Wattle Ice Cream Co., installed their equipment in the North Perth plant and started to make ice cream and butter. In 1932 after a trip to the USA, Walter introduced the Eskimo Pie chocolate - coated ice cream. Demand soon outstripped their ability to supply so an arrangement was made with Peters Ice Cream to supply Brownes with bulk ice cream.

In 1929, the Depression led to farmers abandoning their land or halting production and to a shortage of milk. Brownes had to cease butter and ice cream manufacture at North Perth. In the early 1930s they began ice production. With the post-war boom the plant was modernised and a new factory opened in 1949. This produced pasteurised milk in bottles for the first time in WA under the name 'Golden Seal'. Brownes also introduced the State's first chocolate milk in 1951, and the first yoghurt in 1959.

Peters acquired Brownes Dairy Ltd in 1962. In 1970 Brownes built a new factory on the site on the south side of Kadina Street. This was used to make cottage and feta cheese, yogurt, sour cream, and Classic Dessert. Juice and flavoured milk continued to be produced in the main factory and a second milk bottling line was also installed. Milk cartons were introduced in 1974. Milk was put into glass bottles for the last time in 1986. In 1998 the dairy moved to Balcatta after more than 80 years in North Perth. A growers market and six retail shops were subsequently housed within the original building with town houses constructed in Kadina Street - a place known as 'The Village' - North Perth.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1930 he built the house at 306 Charles Street as his own family home, which he occupied for many years. The architect of this residence has not been determined. His mother Mary continued to occupy the house at 40 Albert Street until her death in 1961. Walter Theodore Browne, Robert's brother, and joint manager of Brownes Ltd, occupied No. 40 Albert Street with his own family, making considerable alterations to the place to facilitate modern living requirements.

Walter Browne died in December 2000 and an approval was granted for the removal of the house at No. 40 Albert Street.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the residence have changed little since that time, with the exception of the addition of solar panels to the roof around 2014.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Cultural Life: Domestic Life Economy: Workers and working	
Associations	Robert Irwin Browne and family	Owner and occupant
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

