

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVENTORY

## PLACE REFERENCE NO.: PA38

**NAME** House, 211 Forrest Street, Palmyra

**OTHER NAME** BRIGGS RESIDENCE (FMR)

**PIN NO. (Landgate)** 3268100

**LAND DESCRIPTION:** Strata Lot 1 on Strata Plan 37984 on Certificate of Title Volume 2193 Folio 782

**LOCATION:** 211 Forrest Street Palmyra

**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1913-1915

**PLACE TYPE:** Individual Building or Group

**USE:** Original Use Single storey residence  
Current Use Single storey residence



**HERITAGE LISTINGS:** None

**ARCHITECT:** Harold Ewart Gladstone Briggs

**BUILDER:** Harold Ewart Gladstone Briggs

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Federation Vernacular

**CONDITION:** Good

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The property presents as a single storey timber and iron house displaying Federation era design features however the house has been significantly altered from its original simple vernacular form. Early photographs show the place as a very simple timber and iron cottage with central entrance flanked by 1-over-1 sash windows and a gable roof. The house today has retained the central entrance, with glazed and timber side panel, but the flanking window openings have been altered to three-section windows with a horizontal emphasis rather than the vertical emphasis the original sashes demonstrated. The gable and skillion roof form has been changed to a more expansive hipped form.

As with the original simple cottage, the verandah canopy wraps around three sides of the house although the western side has been infilled to provide additional internal accommodation. Evidence of the original verandah can be seen on the façade with the original wall plate with rafter notches remaining extant. The deck is timber as per the original but the boards are non-original.

The original core of the c.1913 house remains extant albeit with some modifications. The entrance leads into a hall which extends through the centre of the front section of the house, with a room to either side of the passage. The passage then opens into a large open room with fireplace and additional room to the side. The rear section of the house comprises a more contemporary addition and open plan living. Art deco style features are scattered throughout the house including leaded lights, ceiling roses and door hardware.

**HISTORICAL NOTES:**

This cottage was built by Harold Ewart Gladstone Briggs between 1913 to 1915. Harold Briggs travelled to Australia in 1913 leaving behind his fiancé Lucy Jane Heath. Not long after his arrival in Fremantle in March 1913 he secured this lot in Palmyra and erected three tents on the site; one where he cooked, one where he slept and the third for his tools. Harold's brother Albert Victor Tom (Vic) Briggs arrived in Fremantle in July 1913 and the two men built the house over the next two years.

Lucy arrived in Fremantle in December 1915 and the couple were married soon after. Lucy was accompanied on her voyage by Harold's mother Maria Briggs. With their arrival the four roomed cottage was accommodating Harold and Lucy, Vic and Maria Briggs. Not long after a kitchen, bathroom and verandah were added to the timber framed and weatherboard clad house.

Photographs of the cottage during the Briggs ownership show that the roof line was a simple pitched roof with a gable on the ends of the roof. When the cottage was built it was the first in the immediate surrounds and its location at the highest point in Palmyra provided extensive views.

Harold Briggs worked as a Railway Employee at the time of his marriage and then established a wood yard at the home. He collected and cut wood for delivery by horse and cart to Fremantle. The property also included a small poultry farm from which Harold and Lucy would sell eggs to the district.

Lucy and Harold lived all their married life in this cottage. They had two boys who recall that the house was surrounded by bushland until the 1930s when a few more houses were built. After World War Two the area changed significantly with major development to accommodate the growing population. After Lucy's death in 1969 Harold lived on in the house until the late 1970s. He died in 1983 at the age of 93.

When this cottage was built it occupied a larger lot of land which included the adjacent lot at 211A Forrest Road. The lot was subdivided in 2000 to enable the construction of the residence at 211A Forrest Street in 2001.

Aerial photographs demonstrate that there were additions across the rear of the cottage in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century which were substantially added to in the 1980s and then incorporated into the main structure in the early 2000s.

It has not been established when the roof line was changed as the aerial photograph from 1953 and 1965 are indistinct. However it appears that the main roof form was in its current configuration in the 1970s. A 1951 photograph from the Briggs family shows the simple pitched roof form was evident at that time.

#### **HISTORIC THEME/S:**

- Australian Historic Themes:     2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity  
  4.1.2 Making suburbs
  
- HCWA Themes:                        306 domestic Activities  
  602 Early Settlers

#### **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:**

Timber, weatherboard and iron

#### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The place has aesthetic value as the remaining form and materials demonstrate typical design and construction of simple workers cottages from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Federation Style.

The place has historic value for its association with the subdivision and settlement of Palmyra in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The place has historic value for its association with Harold Briggs the owner and builder of the cottage and the extended Briggs family who were the first settlers in this portion of Palmyra who lived at the home for the majority of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The place has social value as the original form and extent of the cottage demonstrates typical homes for working families in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:**

The original core of the house

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:**       Some/moderate significance

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:**     **Category 3**

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL CODE:** **Local**

#### **MAIN SOURCES:**

- Information provided by the owner which was originally sourced from the Briggs family

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** August 2019

**ASSESSOR:** Hocking Heritage + Architecture

All archival images from the current owner.



*Harold Briggs outside 211 Forrest Street, 1951*



*211 Forrest Street, 1920s*



*211 Forrest Street, 1922*



*Front elevation, 211 Forrest Street, 1927*



*Original veranah wall plate*



*East elevation*