

Santa Barbara

Address 209 Moray Street, New Farm, Brisbane, Q 4005

Practice EP Trewern

Designed c1929 Completed 1930

History & Description

Santa Barbara was erected in 1929-30 on a prominent corner site in suburban New Farm for Brisbane businesswoman Mrs Sarah Balls. The house, a low-set rendered brick residence in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style, was designed by Brisbane architect Eric Percival Trewern (1895-1959) and constructed by builder DF Roberts. His practice, established in 1920, became the most successful residential firm of the interwar period. Santa Barbara is ranked amongst his best, and considered the finest example of Spanish Mission style in Brisbane. It was one of the most expensive homes erected in Brisbane at the time.

The house is an unusual, asymmetrical composition of intersecting forms and employs many of the features associated with the Spanish Mission style, including suggestions of hand-crafted techniques reminiscent of adobe buildings evident in the heavy, 'Cordoba' terracotta tiled roof, the curvaceous and bell-like chimney. The interior highlight the use of hand-made flooring tiles, panelled ceilings and walls, gently arched openings, timber-framed glass doors with decorative tracery and a highly decorative central fireplace.



Photos R Riddel.

Statement of Significance

Santa Barbara has a strong association with the work of influential Brisbane architect EP Trewern. It is recognised as his best residential work. With its deftly handled use of asymmetrical composition and intersecting roof forms, the house is a fine example of Trewern's work and typical of the exploration and adaptation by local architects of imported styles for local conditions. Santa Barbara is considered an excellent example of the Inter-War Spanish Mission style.

Criteria Applicable

N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.

N2 – Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

N5 – Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.

