

## Item Details

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### Name

Wenvoe

### SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #1263

### Address

26 Ordnance Avenue LITHGOW NSW 2790

### Local Govt Area

Lithgow

### Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

### Item Type

Built

### Group/Collection

Residential buildings (private)

### Category

House

## All Addresses

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### Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
26	Ordnance Avenue	LITHGOW/NSW/2790	Lithgow	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

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### Statement Of Significance

Historic: rare in Lithgow as a really grand house, designed by one of the most prominent firms of Sydney architects, on the key site in the prestige street of the new area of housing near the Small Arms Factory, Wenvoe is evocative of the wealth and influence of the Bracey family, the principal store-keepers of the town. It is also rare in remaining in the same family throughout. It is of state significance in the combination of these attributes in this town. Aesthetic: one of the really fine architect-designed houses in Lithgow, it is a major enhancement to the aesthetics of the most important avenue in the Coerwull sub-division, broad and leafy, leading straight to the Small Arms Factory. It has state significance in its exceptional contribution to the aesthetics of World War I Lithgow and its explosion in house-construction.

### Criteria a)

#### Historical Significance

This item has historic significance and is assessed as rare on a state basis.

### Criteria c)

#### Aesthetic/Technical Significance

This item has aesthetic significance and is assessed as rare on a state basis.

## Owners

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

## Description

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### Designer

Spain, Cosh &amp; Dods

### Builder/Maker

### Physical Description

A large two storey residence with high hipped roof with large eaves overhang (structure expressed) diamond terra cotta roof shingles. Brick walls with rendered lintel over windows and profile sill. Almost symmetrical with projecting portico supported on circular columns with scroll capitals. Located on a large town allotment, well-maintained with mature gardens. Mediterranean Bungalow Brick/terra cotta shingles

Updated

### Physical Condition

Updated

### Modifications And Dates

The enclosure of the upstairs NE balcony was done when John and Margaret Bracey bought Wenvoe in 1950 and occupied the two upper flats. David and Anna Bracey after 1975 converted the original servery and food store to the kitchen and the kitchen to a family room. The original tennis court was removed in 1964 and a pool has been installed.

### Further Comments

### Current Use

### Former Use

## Listings

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### Listings

			Records Retrieved: 2		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage study			1/1/1997 12:00:00 AM		
Local Environmental Plan	Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014	1263	12/19/2014 12:00:00 AM		

## Procedures/Exemptions

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Records Retrieved: 0

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

## History

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### Historical Notes or Provenance

### Updated

Wenvoe was the first and grandest house to be built on the Extension Estate, when after 1908 J L Brown first began to sub-divide Coerwull land ordnance. Ordnance Avenue was the widest street in the sub-division of 1910 and only houses costing more than 350 pounds could be built there.

The wealthy owner of Bracey's department store in Lithgow, H E S Bracey (known as Major Bracey), a local magistrate and twice mayor, bought eight lots on the corner of Ordnance Avenue and Malvern Street and in 1913 commissioned the prominent Sydney architects Spain, Cosh and Dods to build Wenvoe on lots 1 and 2: the house was completed in 1914. It contained three major downstairs rooms, four principal bedrooms, maid's accommodation, a huge attic and a substantial cellar. In the garden there was a substantial building to house vehicles with a gardener's flat attached.

When 'Major' Bracey died in 1928, the house remained as part of the Bracey Estate, used intermittently by Horace, the eldest of the Major's three sons, who lived permanently in Sydney. The middle brother, Stanley, had also left Lithgow. Eric, the youngest brother, had built his own house on an adjacent block in Ordnance Avenue (no. 24, B264) and did not wish to move to Wenvoe. In 1943 the Braceys converted Wenvoe into five flats, using another Sydney architect, George Thomas.

In 1950 Eric's only son, John, bought Wenvoe from the Estate and established sole occupancy when the last tenant, the store accountant, left in 1958. In 1974 John's son David and his wife Anna, as Wenvoe Property Pty Ltd, bought the house and since 1975 have lived there. Under John and David Bracey all traces of the partitions and additional facilities necessary for the flats were systematically removed and the house has returned to virtually its original condition, as Spain, Cosh and Dods built it.

The garage and flat building in the garden was converted by John Bracey in 1950 into a cottage for the maid and gardener: with the passing of domestic staff, it is now rented to tenants, but remains part of Wenvoe.

Historical Period Built pre 1901 - 1925, Used 1901 - 1925, Used 1926 - 1950, Used 1951 - 1975, Used post 1975

### Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
4. Settlement	Accommodation	Unknown
3. Economy	Commerce	Unknown

## Recommended Management

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### Management Summary

All sites: historical and archaeological sites

- A Keep buildings in good order
- B Continue to maintain building in good order.
- C Record , photograph, research any changes
- D Continue to record and research this place's history.
- E Ensure that any new owners are advised of the Cultural significance of the site
- F Encourage collections of moveable heritage to stay together with the building or place
- G Consider making available publicly interpretive information that will enable visitors to appreciate the site.
- H With assistance from Council make available publicly interpretive information that will enable visitors to appreciate the sites.
- I Draw up conservation plans or interim Management Plans

## Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

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### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 2

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Greater Lithgow Heritage Study 1997-1998			1998		Ian Jack in conjunction with Graham Edds & Assoc, J Colleran & E Higginbotham
Greater Lithgow Heritage Study 1997-1998			1998		Ian Jack in conjunction with Graham Edds & Assoc, J Colleran & E Higginbotham.

## Reference & Internet Links

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### References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Amanda Bracey	1995	Wenvoe, school assignment	
Oral History			David Bracey, owner	

## Data Source

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The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Lithgow City Council	1960322

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to [council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

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