

Heritage Citation



15 Ealing Street, Annerley

Key details

Also known as	Stephens Shire Divisional Board Office
Addresses	At 15 Ealing Street, Annerley, Queensland 4051
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L3_RP47208
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — May 2005

Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Alexander Brown Wilson (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This timber residence was originally built on Ipswich Road as offices for the Stephens Divisional Board. It was designed circa 1890 by notable architect Alexander Brown Wilson who also served as Chairman of the Board from 1890-91. After the Stephens Shire amalgamated to form the Greater Brisbane Council in 1925, the land was sold and the building moved to the rear of the block, facing Ealing Street. It has since been adapted for use as a private residence and has undergone a number of alterations and additions.

History

The Stephens Divisional Board was gazetted on 16 October 1886. At the time the Shire of Stephens covered an area of 9 square miles and the Stephens District had a population of about 3,500, of which 1,500 were ratepayers. The first election of the Stephens Divisional Board was held in November 1888.

In 1888 Stephens Shire purchased subdivision 2 of Portion 103 comprising 2 roods from Mark Cockerill. There was a tender notice to construct the Stephens Divisional Board offices on Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba in 1888. The building was probably constructed shortly afterwards. It first appeared in the Post Office Directory in 1891.

The building's architect was Alexander Brown Wilson, a notable Brisbane architect at the time. Wilson played an active role in local politics, and was Chairman of the Stephens Divisional Board from 1890 to 1891. He managed to survive the financial recession of the early 1890s by mortgaging his Yeronga residence and temporarily moving to Sandgate.

Other buildings designed by Wilson included several major Brisbane landmarks like the Hayne residence (later Como) in 1889-90, Lamb residence, Kangaroo Point (1901) and the YMCA in Edward Street (1906-07)

The land on which the offices were located was later part of Ealing Park Estate, subdivided in 1893. The estate map shows the location of shire office allotment between Ipswich Road and Park Road. Park Road was later renamed Ealing Street.

The population of the Shire grew from 3000 in 1887 to 13000 at the time of the Shire's incorporation into the City of Brisbane at the time of inauguration in 1924.

The property on which the Stephens Shire office stood was transferred to Brisbane City Council in July 1929. In December 1929 the Council sold re-subdivision 3 of subdivision 2, comprising 19 and two tenths of a perch to George Thomas Wilkinson and Maggie Wilkinson who were located next to the Shire office on Ipswich Road which continued to be their address after purchasing the property. The likelihood is that the Council shifted the building to the back of the block prior to subdividing the land into four separate allotments.

The next land transfer was in 1934 when the Wilkinsons sold the property to Elizabeth Allen of 390 Ipswich Road, wife of Reginald Allen. The property was then transferred to George Williams in 1940 and subsequently transferred to several owners.

Description

The wooden former shire office has been adapted to operate as a dwelling. There have been a number of alterations to the exterior of the building, including the garage infill under the house. The original arched entry beneath the gabled pediment has been filled in with window openings. However, the building still retains its asymmetrical bungalow roof line.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as the former offices of the Stephens Divisional Board which was established in 1886, decades before the formation of the Greater Brisbane Council.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance
for its contribution to the streetscape.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as an example of the work of Alexander Brown Wilson, one of Brisbane's most notable nineteenth century architects.

References

1. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificate of Title records
2. Brisbane City Council Properties on the Web
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Detail Plan No 437, 1935
4. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
5. Byrnes, Matthew, *Stephens District: Historical Overview*, 1995
6. Queensland Post Office Directories
7. Ealing Park Estate Map c1893
8. Photograph of the Stephens Shire Office, Ipswich Road, Annerley, Courier Mail, 4 August 1906. Photo is also located in John Oxley Library photo collection, Neg No 69566
9. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the 19th century: A Biographical Dictionary*, Queensland Museum, 1994, p 210

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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