

Heritage Citation



Hardeen

Key details

Addresses	At 103 Martindale Street, Corinda, Queensland 4075
Type of place	House
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	California Bungalow
Lot plan	L1_RP119881
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2011 Date of Citation — March 2010
Construction	Walls: Timber

103 Martindale Street is an intact one storey timber house which was built for Percival Lahey, the son of Corinda saw mill pioneer, David Lahey in 1924. Percival played an integral role in the running of the saw mill and as such contributed to the industrial history of the Corinda area. The house was designed in the Californian Bungalow style and reflects the fashionable shift in house design in this period in Brisbane's development.

History

The area from Chelmer to Corinda was known as "Boyland's Pocket" in the 1850s, Captain Boyland having leased the area in 1851. In 1860 the new Queensland Government opened up the district for selection, at a price of 1 pound per acre, resulting in the establishment of a number of farms ranging anywhere between 25 and 70 acres in size. Attempts were made by pioneer selectors during the 1860s and 1870s to produce maize, potatoes, bananas, cotton, sugar cane, and arrowroot. The opening of a railway bridge at Indooroopilly in 1876 reduced the isolation of the area, and allowed for increased subdivision. The first main building wave occurred in the 1880s, a boom period for Brisbane. However, many of the allotments sold at this time remained vacant for years, and continued to be used for small farming operations. Later waves of building, occurring after each of the World Wars, gradually reduced the amount of farmland, and new housing continues to envelop those gracious older houses which once stood on acreage, surrounded by gardens.

As Irish immigrants the Laheys established themselves with a succession of successful timber, arrowroot and sugar mills in the Pimpama, Beaudesert, Waterford, Canungra areas in the late nineteenth century. David Lahey, one of the eleven Lahey children, after establishing himself in his own right as a successful saw miller and timber merchant, decided to found his own saw milling business as a legacy for his own eleven children. In the early twentieth century David purchased land in Corinda, beside Oxley Creek. It was deemed advantageous to have a site with water access that not only provided an efficient mode of timber distribution, but also an opportunity to establish boat building as part of the business.

In 1910 the saw mill at Corinda was built after an intensive land clearing operation carried out by several members of the Lahey family. By 1911 the mill was operating. The business was known as Brisbane Timbers Ltd. Projects such as the construction of many of Brisbane's trams, as well as providing Brisbane with high quality timber, ensured the success of the Corinda saw mill. Percival Lahey, one of David's sons, was fundamental in the design and construction of a vehicle and goods ferry built at the Corinda mill that ran between Indooroopilly and Chelmer, prior to the construction of the Walter Taylor Bridge. This was an important service for the residents of the Corinda/Sherwood/ Graceville/ Chelmer areas as it allowed a swifter trip to central Brisbane.

Initially David Lahey and his family lived in various stately homes in Yeronga, Indooroopilly and Toowong when they first relocated to Brisbane. However in 1912 David Lahey built a large house on the Corinda property, known as Wonga Wallen, no longer existent on the site. As the family and the business grew David had three other houses constructed around the Corinda mill property from 1919 to 1925. The last of these houses was 103 Martindale Street, and was built for Percival Lahey and his family. David Lahey purchased the parcel of land at the apex of the hill that sloped down to Oxley Creek. In 1924 he passed the titles on to Percival who

subsequently built the substantial timber house. The house followed the 'Californian Bungalow' design, popular at the time and used the local timber milled on the site. Percival was first listed at the address in 1927.

By the mid 1920s the Corinda mill had expanded with another mill constructed for the cutting of softwood, the original would be used exclusively for hard wood. The Lahey family at Corinda were aware of the importance of timber as a renewable resource and as such were committed to reserving a portion of their land for the planting of pine trees. As the 1920s drew to a close so too did the prosperity generated from the Corinda mill. In 1931 the mill went into receivership. However, by 1934 it was back in business, albeit operating at a smaller scale.

103 Martindale Street is not only representative of the history of industry and settlement in the Corinda area, but as an intact timber 'Bungalow' style residence built by a member of an important Queensland pioneering family, using local timbers and as such is historically significant to the local area and to Brisbane.

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 residence of Percival Lahey that was built using local timber it represents the history of industry in the Corinda area.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an intact Californian Bungalow timber residence it is a rare example of this style of house.

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 the residence of Percival Lahey, member of the successful Queensland pioneering family, it is an example of a family residence built beside a once existent family run saw mill, an important early industry in the Corinda area.

References

1. *Lahey, Shirley, The Laheys: Pioneer Settler and Sawmiller*, Brisbane, 2003
2. Lahey, Shirley, "Lahey's Corinda Connections", Places, Patriachs and Pastimes, Oxley-Chelmer History Group Papers: I 1996-1997
3. *Historic Titles*, Department of Natural Resources and Water
4. Queensland Post Office Directories
5. *Metropolitan Water and Sewage Survey Maps*, 1949

Copyright Brisbane City Council

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 June 2022)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane