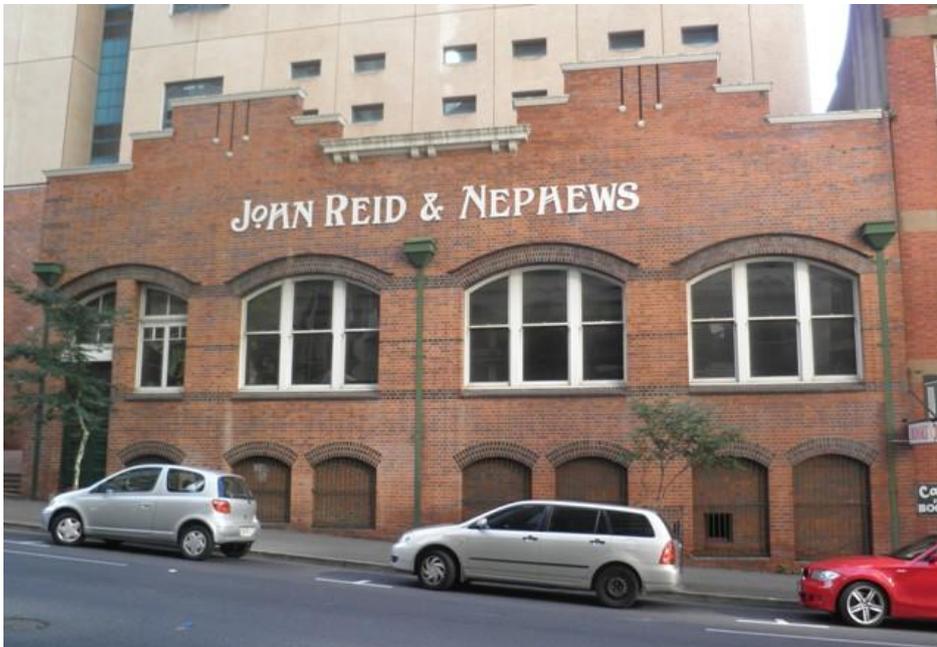




Heritage Citation



John Reid and Nephews Building facade

Key details

Addresses	At 26 Charlotte Street, Brisbane City, Queensland 4000
Type of place	Warehouse, Factory
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Free Style
Lot plan	L1_RP615; L2_RP615
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2009 Date of Citation — June 2006
Construction	Walls: Face brick
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic

This two-storey brick building was constructed circa 1911 for Ivor Eliot Peyton and used as a light engineering factory and warehouse by Brisbane company John Reid and Nephews from 1911 until 1969. The company specialised in wire, rope and hardware. In 1987 the building was purchased by The Australian Telecommunications Commission who demolished all but the facade in order to accommodate construction of the Telstra tower at the rear of the building.

History

Such construction in Charlotte Street reflects the predominant use of land in this area originally known as 'Frogs Hollow', which was roughly bounded by Alice, George, Elizabeth and Edward Streets. Until the late nineteenth century, the area was prone to flooding and possessed a dubious reputation due to the presence of brothels and opium dens. The area was also characterised by residences, boarding houses, hotels, the Chinese Quarter and light industry. From the 1880s onward, however, the area came to be increasingly dominated by warehouses and light industry. This was encouraged by the area's proximity to the city's busy wharves located on the Town Reach of the river. Thus, the construction of the building in Charlotte Street reflects this broader trend, which is an important aspect of the development of Brisbane's Central Business District (CBD).

The building was leased to John Reid and Nephews from December 1911 for ten years and subsequently for another five years. In 1929 David Dickie Reid, a partner in John Reid and Nephews, purchased the building. The building remained in his possession until his death in 1951 and in the family's until 1973 when his heirs sold the property to Access Pty Ltd. The wire, rope and hardware business was sold to Australian Wire Rope Industries Ltd, a subsidiary of BHP, in 1969. The building was purchased by the Australian Telecommunications

Commission (late Telstra) in 1987 and all but the façade demolished to accommodate the Telstra tower behind.

Description

The façade of the former John Reid and Nephews' building is brown facebrick. It is carefully composed with shallow brick arches forming window openings – a single arch to each bay on the first floor over double arches on the lower storey. The parapet rises in steps to a pair of peaks and has cement render copings and the company name in cement lettering in a decorative style above the first floor windows. The symmetry of the street front is broken only by the slope of the street to form a sub-basement and by the entrance at the southern end.

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 evidence of the development of Charlotte Street as a warehouse and light industry precinct of Brisbane in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as part of a group of buildings in Charlotte Street of a related, commercial architectural style that form an architecturally significant streetscape.

References

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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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