

Heritage Citation



Lenehan's Building

Key details

Addresses	At 582 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101
Type of place	House, Shop/s
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Style
Lot plan	L2_RP44492
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — January 2001
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry

People/associations Robert Lenehan (Association)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This two-storey building was constructed circa 1928 for chemist Robert Lenehan who had been running his business from this site since 1910. It was built just after the 1927 re-development of Stanley Street which was carried out in a bid to generate new business in the area. After the old buildings were demolished and new ones built, Stanley Street became a thriving commercial hub. The property, which occupied a prominent corner site on Stanley Street, was owned by the Lenehan family until 1966.

History

Stanley Street (or Stanley Quay as it was first known) was identified on Brisbane's first Town Plan in 1842. By the 1860's the street had been subdivided and gradually small shops and wooden hotels were constructed. The 1880s was a growth period for South Brisbane as Queensland experienced an economic boom. Stanley Street developed into a major thoroughfare and retail centre, second only to Queen Street.

The construction of the dry dock in 1881 and the 1884 opening of the Woolloongabba Railway Station (on the northeastern corner of Stanley Street and Merton Road) brought suburban and country custom to Stanley Street. Commercial development flourished and Stanley Street became lined with the premises of grocers, ironmongers and bootmakers. Recognising the commercial potential of Stanley Street, prominent retailers such as Allan & Stark and J. & T. Heaslop established businesses there. The fire station and Post and Telegraph Office were erected near the intersection of Stanley and Vulture Streets, making this region the civic centre of South Brisbane. Stanley Street became inadequate for the increasing volume of traffic and in 1883 the street, between Vulture Street and Annerley Road was widened. The Woolloongabba Divisional Board widened Stanley Street between Annerley Road and Merton Road in 1886.

During the 1890's Depression, there was a decline in the economic activity in Stanley Street. The situation was aggravated by severe flooding in 1890 and 1893, which caused many retailers to move to higher ground on the north side of Brisbane. The construction of Melbourne Street station in 1891 took custom away from Stanley Street and closer to the city. As the economy improved in the early twentieth century, development returned to Stanley Street.

By 1918 the condition of Stanley Street had deteriorated to the extent that the South Brisbane Council spent £2,000 remaking and metalling the street. Anxious to stimulate commerce, in 1920 this Council implemented a programme of reconstruction, allocating £56,000 to build permanent roadways in Stanley and Melbourne Streets. As with most regional commercial centres, the development trends of Stanley Street, reflect the statewide economic fluctuations. The last economic boom of Stanley Street occurred in the 1920s and little growth has taken place since then.

In 1927, the land on the northern, or riverside, of Stanley Street from Annerley Road to Merton Road, was resumed and the existing shops were demolished. This section of Stanley Street was doubled in width and the tram tracks were re-aligned. New commercial premises were constructed at the completion of this work. With

the exception of those buildings mentioned earlier, the majority of buildings that comprise the Stanley Street streetscape are from this era or later.

Robert Lenehan, chemist, had established a business in this section of Stanley Street around 1905. He moved to the present site of this building circa 1910. Following road resumption in 1927, the existing buildings were demolished. Lenehan then purchased the thirteen perch site in June 1928. A building application had been lodged earlier in May. The builder was Michael Dwyer of Hendra, who also built the adjoining 'Magees Shop' around the same time.

Lenehan's business flourished in the commercial hub of Stanley Street, serving the local and business community. Robert Lenehan died in February 1932, but the property remained in family ownership until 1966.

Description

This building has a two storey brick facade, which is at a slight angle to the remainder of this section of Stanley Street but is symmetrical around its frontage. Three evenly spaced windows are located in the upper level shaded by a continuous tiled awning with hipped ends. The parapet has the building name in raised lettering surmounted by a rusticated band with an evenly spaced circular motif repeated between the two framing elements at each end. The parapet line and moulding of this building lines up with the adjoining 'Magee's Drapery Emporium'. The addition of a modern sign obscuring the parapet and its lettering and the painting of the brickwork and awning has altered the building from its original appearance. The lower floor has been fitted out to suit the present shop use.

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 part of the 1927 re-development of Stanley street, this commercial premises demonstrates the physical evolution of the local area.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

it is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of interwar commercial premises in the South Brisbane area.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as its form and materials are part of the pattern relating to the commercial usage.

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

for its association with the business of Robert Lenehan, chemist, an important business within the local area.

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 September 2020)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane