

Heritage Citation



Lozelles

Key details

Addresses	At 42 Norman Avenue, Norman Park, Queensland 4170
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L116_SP165183
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2011 Date of Citation — August 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations Thomas Wilson (Occupant)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific; (H) Historical association

This elegant, Victorian style residence constructed in 1888 was one of the earliest residences in the area built as a result of the first estate sales in Norman Park. It was built for Thomas Henry Wilson, brass founder and owner of the Wilson Waratah Metal Company Pty Ltd, which was a significant business in the local area. In 1959 the Brisbane City Council commemorated Wilson's lengthy association with the area by naming a newly made park opposite the house, "Wilson Park".

History

This house was built for Thomas Henry Wilson and his wife Elizabeth during or just after 1888. Wilson arrived from Manchester in 1883 and first worked with metal founding concern, Messrs. Smith and Forrester, until he registered his own brass foundry business, the Wilson Waratah Metal Company Pty Limited in 1912.

Wilson purchased the land on which the house stands in 1888. It had been part of the large Norman Park Estate which was first advertised for sale in 1887. He initially purchased subdivision 117 and it was on this section that the house was built. He added subdivision 116 to his parcel in 1902. Three more lots were added between 1910 and 1924 and it was here that he steadily built his foundry.

Wilson's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1939 and Wilson himself died in 1944. The property comprising the house and foundry passed to his four sons who then consolidated their ownership under the Wilson Waratah Metal Company. In 1959 the Brisbane City Council commemorated Wilson's lengthy association with the area by naming a newly made park opposite the house, "Wilson Park".

Wilson developed a white metal which he advertised as "Waratah" anti-friction white metal throughout 1911 and 1912. In September 1913, he returned to Brisbane on the 'Orvieto' after travelling to Great Britain to list his metal on the British market for shipbuilding and engineering concerns. It was recognised as a leader in the production of castings in brass, gunmetal, aluminium, phosphor bronze as well as the anti-friction white metals.

Foundry buildings on the site are shown in sewerage detail plans and surveyor's notebook plans prepared in the mid 1930s, and also in 1946 aerial photographs. It continued to operate until the late 1960s when the land the foundry occupied was sold off.

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 one of the first residences built as a result of the first estate sales in the area. It provides evidence of the early development of Norman Park as a residential suburb in the late nineteenth century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as an elegant, Victorian style residence constructed in 1888.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history

as a late nineteenth century residence associated with an adjoining foundry business.

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 a house built for Thomas Wilson founder of the significant local foundry works, Waratah Metal Foundry.

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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.

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