

Heritage Citation



Stone Residence

Key details

Also known as	Grasmere
Addresses	At 68 Sixth Avenue, Windsor, Queensland 4030
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Georgian
Lot plan	L183_RP18928
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — October 2006
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Stone

This Victorian house was constructed circa 1888 for stonemason William Parsons during Windsor's growth and development into a populous middle-class suburb. The house survives as a rare example of a modest stone private residence in Brisbane.

History

Historical evidence suggests this nineteenth century stone house was built around 1888 for stonemason William Parsons. It is a rare surviving example of a modest stone residence in the local area.

At this time, Windsor was newly declared a separate Shire and developing into a more populous middle suburb of Brisbane as the large estates of the wealthy were subdivided for residential development. William O'Connell's estate of Rosemount and James Swan's property at Swan Hill (now part of Windsor) were just two of the estates subdivided at this time. Spurred by the dramatic increase in population caused by immigration and booming economic conditions of the 1880s, developers sought to take advantage of the need for affordable sites with access to the town centre. Since Bowen Bridge was constructed across Enoggera Creek in 1862, Bowen Bridge/Lutwyche Road had been the major route to the north of the city and beyond to the goldfields of Gympie causing ribbon development of residences, churches, shops, hotels and other businesses to occur. In 1904, Windsor rose to the status of a Town.

William Parson's house was built on three 16 perch allotments, which he purchased in 1886 (allotment 182) and 1887 (allotments 183 and 184). This land was part of a parcel of some 27 acres owned by the Rev. George Wight, who had established a Congregational chapel on his property on Eildon Hill in the 1860s. Rev. Wight subdivided his land into a large number of mostly 16 perch allotments from 1885. An 1887 estate sales map for "Eildon Tower Hill Estate" shows that the new subdivision had sold well. Although the railway line through Windsor would not open until 1899 and the electric tramline to Windsor was not opened until 1914, the estate map advertised the land as "Only 15 minutes from Queen Street. For health, scenery and convenience to buss[sic], tram and rail." It is likely that horse drawn omnibuses provided a service to the city and that some people would have walked to Albion Railway Station on the Sandgate line. The residents of Sixth Avenue listed in the 1891 postal records are drawn mostly from the labouring and artisan classes, with several carpenters and stonemasons. It is likely many of these residents would have worked locally in the building trade rather than have commuted to the City.

Parsons is listed in postal records as living at this address from 1889, suggesting that he constructed the house soon after purchasing the land. As a stonemason, it is probable that Parsons himself built his new home.

Parsons mortgaged the land at the time of purchase in 1887 and again in 1888 and 1896 before selling the house in 1913 to Constance Ashworth (wife of Percy). The Ashworths sold the property in 1924. It has since had several owners. The house is shown on a 1935 BCC detail plan with the name *Cresmere*, although a sign on the house presently says *Grasmere*.

Building records show an approval for a “double garage with patio” in 1977. Two enormous palm trees feature in the front yard of the house.

Stone houses are relatively rare in Brisbane. Two other stone houses in the Windsor area are the residence at 22 Cartwright Street and *Craigellachie* in Fosbery Street which is entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. Three other examples of stone houses in Windsor were demolished in the mid-1990s. They were located in Stoneleigh Street and on the corner of Albion and Lutwyche Roads.

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

for the evidence it provides of the intense development of Windsor as a residential suburb during the boom of the 1880s.

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

as a rare surviving example of a modest nineteenth century stone residence in Brisbane.

References

1. Brisbane City Council sewerage detail plans and building cards
2. Queensland Certificates of Title
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Teague, D., *Windsor Council Chambers, 1897 - 1997*, Brisbane: Windsor & Districts Historical Society,

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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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