

Heritage Citation



618 Brunswick Street, New Farm

Key details

Addresses	At 618 Brunswick Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Shop/s
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Filigree
Lot plan	L1_RP9033; L2_RP9033; L1_RP9034
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — September 2009
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative

These relatively rare two-storeyed timber shops, being purpose-built in the late nineteenth century, provide

substantial evidence of the residential development of this part of New Farm. Functioning as shops throughout the twentieth and now into the twenty-first century they demonstrate the principal characteristics of this early style of retail development.

History

Following the official closure the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement in 1842 land was offered for sale and much of it was bought by land speculators. The New Farm area, being so-named because of its use as farmland for the convict colony, became a semi-rural area favoured for agricultural and recreational pursuits.

As the remote settlement developed with the establishment of a racecourse from the late 1840s, allotments along the ridges were sold and estates were established. The original purchaser of the land in the vicinity of these shops was Michael O'Neill, who purchased 6.5 acres in December 1853. O'Neill's property was subdivided with an area of almost an acre being sold in 1867.

By 1878-79 sparse residential development extended along James Street to Annie Street, Brunswick Street and Bowen Terrace. The land at the corner of Terrace and Brunswick Streets is recorded as vacant at this time. By 1883-4 it was occupied by Mr Chang, a gardener. During the 1880s, a time of buoyant economic conditions accompanying an influx of migrants, suburban residential development became denser, particularly along Brunswick, Harcourt, Arthur and Terrace Streets. This population growth encouraged the development of public transport in the area with the Metropolitan Tramway and Investment Company laying the tram tracks which terminated at Brunswick and Barker Streets. In 1885 a horse drawn tram route extended along Brunswick Street from Fortitude Valley to Ella Street, New Farm. The development of the tramways boosted land sales and residential development in the area.

From 1885-86 the corner site is occupied by a Mrs Hay and in 1888-89 by a grocer. By 1886 an allotment of 32 perches of O'Neill's land was bought by John Fox who used it to secure a loan of £800 sterling. In 1890 the land was sold to Thomas Lane who then mortgaged it for £1750. Either of these mortgages could have been used to build the shops which operated on the site in the late nineteenth century. In 1891 -92 William Sandall, a pharmaceutical chemist, operated a store on the site, which was taken over by Thomas Maughan in 1893 – 1895. 1897 a carpenter, engineer and dressmaker shared the premises.

From that time until the 1930s the shops housed a variety of businesses including fruiterers, dressmakers, boot repairers and a laundry. While the 'great depression' of the 1930s caused massive unemployment and business failures, only one store in the building remained vacant. In the post-war period the shops continued to operate with applications made for a second-hand shop and a self-serve laundry in the 1960s.

These shops, erected during the prosperous period of the late nineteenth century have survived the rigours of the twentieth century to remain standing as iconic two-storeyed timber shops in the twenty-first century.

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 substantial block of shops built 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 these two-storeyed nineteenth century timber shops.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places as a two-storeyed block of nineteenth century timber shops.

References

1. Brisbane City Council, *New Farm and Teneriffe Hill Heritage and Character Study*, Oct 1995.
2. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
3. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
4. Department of Natural Resources. Queensland Certificates of Title
5. Queensland Post Office Directories

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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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