

Heritage Citation



79 Primrose Street, Grange

Key details

Addresses	At 79 Primrose Street, Grange, Queensland 4051
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L1_RP57260; L1_RP96341
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — August 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This large residence was constructed circa 1899 for Emily and William Villiers Brown who had just moved to Brisbane from Townsville. In the 1880s, William was managing director of Aplin, Brown and Co. Ltd, a mercantile, shipping and stock and station agency in Townsville. He also served as a member of parliament in 1885 and again from 1907-1908. The Browns lived in the house until 1911 since which time the house has had a number of different owners.

History

This house on the corner of Wilston Road and Primrose Street was constructed circa 1899 for William Villers Brown and his wife, Emily. It is situated on land which was part of the 46 acre estate of 'Wilston House' built for William Wilson in the 1870s.

Wilson was an Irish immigrant who became a mercantile and insurance broker and later Brisbane representative of the Adelaide Milling Company. From 1874 to 1878 he was a member of the Legislative Council of Queensland. Wilson sold 'Wilston House' in 1884 and some of the estate was subdivided for sale in the 1880s as the 'Wilston Estate'.

In December 1889 subdivisions 173 to 176, 255 to 258 of Portion 268, consisting of 1 acre 3.8 perches, were transferred to Emily Brown, the wife of William Villiers Brown.. The subject house was constructed across subdivisions 255 to 258 (2 roods 2 perches) circa 1898.

In 1888 William Villiers Brown was managing director of the Townsville mercantile, shipping and stock and station agency, Aplin, Brown and Co. Limited. Brown was also a member of the Queensland parliament, commencing as member for Townsville in 1885 and later as Minister without Portfolio and Representative of Government in Legislative Council 1907-08. The Browns lived in the house for several years until it was sold to Elizabeth Holdsworth (wife of James Atkinson Holdsworth) in 1911.

Following the death of Elizabeth Holdsworth in 1918 the house was transferred to Alfred and Gladys Leitch (1920), John Sharp (1922) then John Heywood (1925). At an unknown time a tennis court was constructed to the east of the building. Following a resubdivision in 1940 the tennis court allotment (sub 255 and resub 2 of sub 256) was transferred to Harry Trent and Marjory Heywood. A house was later built on this allotment.

Following the death of John Heywood's wife Julia Heywood on 17 November 1979 the land passed through a number of owners.

The house has retained some of its early outbuildings.

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 large houses constructed after the estate of 'Wilston House' was subdivided for residential development in 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 substantially intact late nineteenth century house with linked outbuildings.

References

1. Aldine history of Queensland, 1888
2. Alphabetical register of members of the Legislative Assembly 1860 to 2004 and of the Legislative Council 1860 to 1922
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plan no. 608 dated September 1937
4. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of Title and other records
5. Environmental Protection Agency
6. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
7. Hogan, Janet. *Historic Houses of Brisbane: a selection*. Brisbane: Boolarong for the National Trust of Qld, 1979
8. Lawson, Ronald 1973, *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia
9. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895

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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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