

Heritage Citation



Alexander Stewart & Sons Warehouse (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 8 Mclachlan Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006
Type of place	Warehouse
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Warehouse
Lot plan	L9_SP198096; L11_SP198097; L6_SP198091; L7_SP198093; L15_SP198103; L1_SP198100; L11_SP198099; L2_SP198094; L14_SP198098; L10_SP198096; L12_SP198097; L40_SP238935; L101_SP233971
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — May 2006

Construction	Walls: Brick - Painted
People/associations	Alexander Stewart and Sons (Association)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (H) Historical association

As the date on the parapet of this building suggests, this former warehouse was constructed in 1905 for Alexander Stewart and Sons, hat and clothing manufacturers, warehousemen and importers of general drapery. It was built to service the company's adjacent factory fronting Marshall Street, which was built in 1898. Originally known as Stewart and Hemmant's, the company was among the first in Brisbane to be devoted exclusively to the clothing industry. The success of the company, which by 1910 had retail branches in Melbourne, Sydney and London and had become a household name in Brisbane, led to the extension of the original factory building and the construction of this warehouse to meet increased demand. In 1935, the building was sold to merchants and indent grocers, Bruce Pie and Sons, who later expanded into textile manufacture, using this building as a distribution centre. The former warehouse is now best known as The Family nightclub.

History

In 1903 the company became known as Alexander Stewart and Sons, although Alexander Stewart's partnership with William Hemmant had dissolved in 1871. Stewart and Hemmant began business together in the late 1850s, setting up a general drapery on the corner of Queen and Albert Streets. Their shop was destroyed by fire in 1864 and the partners re-established their business on nearby Queen and Adelaide Streets. The partners' keen business sense, the central location of their store and Brisbane's growing population helped the business to flourish.

It was under the management of Alexander Stewart that the business entered into the production of garments. The company became a major manufacturer of clothing and hats in Brisbane and a household name. The company's factory produced clothing such as moleskin trousers under the Manx brand and shirts under the Thistle brand. It had two factories in Brisbane and one in Ipswich devoted entirely to the making of clothing, white wear and straw hats and had retail branches in Melbourne, Sydney and London.

By 1905 demand had grown to such an extent that it was considered necessary to build additional warehouse facilities adjacent to the factory.

In 1935 the building was taken over by Bruce Pie and Sons, merchants and indent grocers. Following Bruce Pie and Sons' expansion into textile manufacture with the opening of a large textile mill at Kedron in 1948, the Valley building continued to be used as a distribution centre.

The building was originally face brick with rendered bands over the arched windows. At some stage after 1949 it was painted over.

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 evidence of the continued industrial expansion of Fortitude Valley into the early 1900s; and, as evidence of the growth and success of Alexander Stewart and Sons, which had become a household name in Brisbane by the 1910s.

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 prominent Brisbane based manufacturer, Alexander Stewart and Sons, one of Queensland's largest clothing manufacturers in the first decades of the twentieth century.

References

1. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 12
2. Barton, EJT (ed), *Jubilee History of Queensland*, Brisbane: HJ Diddams, 1909
3. *Fortitude Valley Centenary 1849-1949*, Brisbane: the Committee, 1949
4. Lawson, Ronald *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*. St Lucia U of Q Press, 1973
5. Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Detail Plan No 154
6. *Queenslander*, 28 July 1900, pp 5 and 18
7. Titles Office Records

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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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