

Heritage Citation



B.A.F.S. Dispensary (former)

Key details

Also known as	Brisbane Associated Friendly Society Dispensary
Addresses	At 767 Stanley Street, Woolloongabba, Queensland 4102
Type of place	Clinic
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Classical, Italianate, Functionalist
Lot plan	L2_RP11207; L1_RP11207
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — October 2006

Construction Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Masonry - Render

People/associations Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies (Association)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (G) Social

This two-storey masonry building was constructed in 1920 as a dispensary for the Brisbane Associated Friendly Society. Friendly societies first emerged in Britain in the late eighteenth century in response to the high cost of healthcare, for which there was no government support. In the early 1800s, the Society was established in Brisbane and by 1885 had more than 1200 members. For a regular fee, members and their families were covered for funeral and healthcare costs, including the medicines provided by this dispensary. The building was retained by the BAFS until 1928 but has been leased by various businesses since 1929.

History

In January 1920 the trustees of the Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies Dispensary acquired title to this property from Joseph Davis. The cornerstone was laid on 21 February 1920.

Friendly societies arose in Britain in the late eighteenth century with the initial aim of organising recreational activities for the working classes. The societies developed into self-help organisations where resource pooling enabled help to members when the occasion arose. Queensland's first friendly society was established in 1843, and membership entitled claims on sickness and funeral benefits.

The Friendly Societies first opened a dispensary in Charlotte Street, Brisbane in 1885 following its advocacy a number of years earlier. At that time the membership of the BAFS totalled just 1226. A branch was soon established in South Brisbane in 1891, and another in Fortitude Valley in 1900. In 1916 BAFS opened a dispensary at 331 George Street, Brisbane by which time its membership had grown to 13,160. The Associated Societies provided drugs, benefits, allowances and burial expenses for an estimated one-quarter of the metropolitan community.

The Woolloongabba BAFS site was leased to pharmacists Goodwins Limited in 1929, and while it remained in BAFS ownership, there have been a number of leases since that time. The present owner acquired title in 1998.

Description

This is a rendered brick, two storey commercial building. It is on a corner site however, the building only really addresses Stanley Street, with the exception of some signage on the top of the parapet walls on the upper level. The top of the parapet is decorated with corncicing and corbelling which arc down to the lower height of the parapet part way along the sidewall. There are six casement windows on the upper level, which are framed by

three linked square protruding frames. The casement windows in the sidewall do not have a strong rhythm like the front ones and do not have the framing, only a simple sill. An awning shades the front of the lower level and extends back slightly around the corner. The lower level walls are veneered in small white and grey tiles with several large glass door openings and a window. The tiling continues around the corner to in line with the edge of the awning. A window of the same dimensions as the front one is within this tile veneered wall section, with a security screen over it.

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

It is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's and the City's history, representing the development of health care in the twentieth century. It demonstrates the growth and popularity of Friendly Societies as a means for working class people to provide for their health needs

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

It demonstrates rare aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage being a surviving purpose-built premises constructed by a Friendly Society to accommodate their activities

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

It has a strong and special social and cultural association with the Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
 2. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
 3. Environmental Protection Agency
-

Copyright Brisbane City Council

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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane