

Heritage Citation



Baby Clinic (former)

Key details

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| Addresses | At 23 Logan Road, Woolloongabba, Queensland 4102 |
| Type of place | Clinic |
| Period | Interwar 1919-1939 |
| Style | Arts and Crafts |
| Lot plan | L1_CP816000 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — July 2011 |
| Construction | Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Face brick |

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

The Baby Clinic was built in 1928, following the Queensland government's introduction of the Maternity Act of 1922. The Clinic replaced an earlier and smaller Infant Welfare Centre that had been established across the road. Five baby clinics had been built in Brisbane by 1928. Four of these clinics were constructed using a specific state government design. The Woolloongabba two-storey brick building is a unique baby clinic design.

History

After charitable institutions approached the Labour Government to aid in setting up 'Baby Clinics', infant welfare centres began operating in Brisbane in 1918. Four were established in Brisbane: at Fortitude Valley, Woolloongabba, Spring Hill, and West End. Following the introduction of the Maternity Act of 1922 that provided for the establishment of maternity wards and cottage hospitals throughout Queensland, the scheme was expanded. In 1924 the first purpose designed and built clinic was erected in Fortitude Valley.

The government also decided to fund these works from revenue raised by the Golden Casket Art Union. The Art Union was initially run by the Anzac Cottage Committee to fund the building of cottages for the widows and children of Anzacs killed during World War I. With that task in hand, from 1922 until 1975 all revenue from the Golden Casket Art Union was transferred to the Maternal and Child Welfare Trust Fund for maternity wards, baby clinics, bush nurses and a number of other health initiatives. In 1923 an initial amount of £150,000 was available from the Golden Casket.

Under the infant welfare scheme, trained nurses attempted to visit all newborn infants so that they would not suffer from mistakes due to mothers' lack of knowledge, however it was also reported that increasing numbers of mothers were bringing their babies to the clinics before they were visited at home. Woolloongabba was a high attendance area, second only to Fortitude Valley. In 1925-26 there were 10,907 attendances. By 1927-28 the rate was up to 13041.

The Department of Works had provided a standard plan for the clinics, and rented premises gradually gave way for new Georgian style buildings. The Baby Clinic which had been established in Woolloongabba in 1918 on the opposite side of Logan Rd was obviously too small to cope. So it seems was the standard design. The decision to erect a new Baby Clinic at Woolloongabba consequently represented a departure from the norm, and a non-standard two-storey design was constructed and opened in 1928.

In the Director of Infant Welfare's second annual report of 1927-28, it was noted that a corresponding fall in attendances at West End clinic was probably directly related to the increase at the new Woolloongabba clinic. In 1927-28 the Woolloongabba Baby Clinic was one of only fourteen clinics operating throughout the State - only five of these were in Brisbane.

Description

This building is an important element in the streetscape of this part of Logan Road. It features two two-storey gabled parapet walls of consistent height, built on the street alignment. A small slit roof vent is in the centre of both gables. The corrugated iron roof is visible between the two parapets over the central section of the building. The brick building has a symmetrical front facade, built around a central recessed porch and features prominent terracotta tiled hoods on timber brackets, to the upper windows.

All the windows have brick sills and powder-coated aluminium joinery. The central window has no hood, but the concrete beam of the upper level ceiling is expressed in the exterior facade along with decorative corbelling. Between the two levels a concrete beam is also expressed as a strip right across the front facade. The porch is enclosed with metal security screens and doors, but with several decorative fan features to the top on both sides.

The building is partially intact externally. It is of note that an awning has been recently added to the front of the building in line with the neighbouring building's awning.

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 particularly the role of Government concerns with the health and welfare of babies and their mothers.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a clinic of non-standard design it is a unique building in Brisbane.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a purpose-built maternal and child welfare Clinics in Queensland.

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

as it is linked to the Queensland Government's establishment of child welfare clinics.

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

as it served the families of Woolloongabba and surrounding suburbs.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
3. Queensland health. *Health buildings in Queensland: an historical overview*, 1997
4. Second Annual Report of the Director of Infant Welfare. *Queensland Parliamentary*

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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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