



## Heritage Citation



**Barry and Roberts Building, York Hotel,  
Hotel Carlton & Telegraph Building**

## Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	The Myer Centre
<b>Addresses</b>	At 91 Queen Street, Brisbane City, Queensland 4000
<b>Type of place</b>	Hotel (accommodation), Office building, Urban precinct
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914, Interwar 1919-1939, Late 20th Century 1960-1999
<b>Style</b>	Art Deco, Chicagoesque, Filigree, Mannerist
<b>Lot plan</b>	L41_RP218420; L712_SL837761; L42_SP145288
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — September 2011
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic

The facades of these four separate buildings are the only components of existing buildings that were retained during the construction of the Myer Centre in 1982. The Queen Street frontage of the Myer Centre comprises (from the Albert Street end) a row of facades from the Hotel Carlton (1891) and The Telegraph Building (built 1891), the York Hotel (1929) and Barry & Roberts Building (1921) that are connected by elements constructed in 1982.

## History

In late 1981, the Queensland government announced a major redevelopment project for the commercial heart of Brisbane's CBD. The section of Queen Street between George and Albert Streets was to be closed to all vehicular traffic and the roadway replaced with a pedestrian mall. As well, many of the old buildings located along the eastern side of Queen Street were to be demolished to allow for the construction of a new shopping complex containing a top floor theme park with a rollercoaster ride. The new development was called "The Myer Centre" after its anchor tenant. As part of this redevelopment, four existing building facades were to be retained so as to enhance the visual appeal of the proposed Queen Street Mall. The Myer Centre development extended through to Elizabeth Street but no old building facades were to be preserved along this frontage.

In Queen Street, a row of building facades, two dating from the nineteenth century and two dating from the early twentieth century, were earmarked for preservation. Two adjoining facades were from the Hotel Carlton (1891) and *The Telegraph Building* (built 1891), were retained. The next few buildings were to be demolished until the York Hotel (1929) was reached and preserved. Another building was to be demolished until the end of the Myer Centre was reached where another early twentieth century building façade would be retained. The Barry & Roberts Building (1921) façade became the bookend marker for the Myer Centre. The Queen Street Mall was

opened on 9 August 1982.

The retention of these four building facades within a single project is a major example of an early approach to heritage protection. This approach focused on retaining the exterior appearance and elevational profile of an old building rather than preserving the entire building. This early approach to heritage protection became known colloquially as 'facadism'. In contrast, the current approach is to retain as much of an old building as possible as it is both the interior spaces as well as the exterior and its setting that tell the full heritage story.

Other facades remaining from this era are the RS Exton & Co Building at 333 Ann Street, the John Reid and Nephews Building at 26-36 Charlotte Street; Pan Australia House at 120 Charlotte Street; the Walter Reid Building at 163 Charlotte Street, the Queensland Country Life Building at 424-426 Queen Street and the Valley Baths at 408-424 Wickham Street. This approach was not the predominant approach however. In addition to the demolition of the *Bellevue Hotel* in 1979, 1982 saw the complete demolition of 'Cloudland' at Bowen Hills triggering a groundswell of support for the retention of Brisbane's heritage.

Following a change in government, the *Queensland Heritage Act* created the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992, protecting sites which had initially been identified by the National Trust. Heritage protection provisions were written into the revised 1987 Brisbane Town Plan. Heritage protection became more formalised in the Brisbane City Council City Plan Heritage Register Planning Scheme Policy created in the City Plan in 2000.

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## 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:

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#### Historical

##### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

for illustrating the changing styles of building frontages when Queen Street was Brisbane's premier shopping precinct in the late nineteenth through to the mid-twentieth centuries.

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#### Rarity

##### CRITERION B

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

as, along with the other heritage-listed buildings in this block, it retains sections of the 1920s buildings in Queen

Street: Brisbane's premier retail street.

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## Representative

### CRITERION D

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

as a major example of the discredited 'facadism' approach to heritage protection applied to inner-city redevelopment sites during the 1980s.

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## Aesthetic

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as the highly decorative facades of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings constructed in an era when elaborate, formal elevations were de rigueur for successful businesses.

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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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