

## Heritage Citation



### F.H. Faulding Warehouse (former)

#### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	St. Paul's Book Centre
<b>Addresses</b>	At 168 Charlotte Street, Brisbane City, Queensland 4000; At 149 Edward Street, Brisbane City, Queensland 4000
<b>Type of place</b>	Warehouse
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Free Classical
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP41710
<b>Geolocation</b>	-27.469451 153.028779
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2009 Date of Citation — June 2006

<b>Construction</b>	Walls: Face brick
<b>People/associations</b>	D. F. Roberts (Builder); G.H.M. Addison and Son and H.S. Macdonald (Architect)
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(B) Rarity

This warehouse, designed by the architectural firm of Addison & Macdonald, was erected in 1931 for Adelaide-based F. H. Faulding & Co. Founded in 1845, Faulding & Co. was a major manufacturer of medicinal products. After establishing offices in London, Sydney and Perth, the company purchased the Charlotte Street site in 1924 with plans to erect a distribution warehouse and headquarters for its Queensland operations. The company owned the warehouse until 1957 when the building was sold to Edwards, Dunlop and Co.

## History

The former Faulding Building was built in Charlotte Street in 1931. It is a small, purpose-built warehouse building constructed for F. H. Faulding & Co, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

Francis Hardy Faulding, the son of a physician, left his home in Liverpool in 1842 and moved to the Colony of South Australia. In 1845, he established a retail pharmacy business in Adelaide. The business prospered and by 1850 Faulding began manufacturing his own pharmaceutical products. According to a recent history of pharmacy, Faulding was the first pharmaceutical wholesaler in Australia.<sup>1</sup> In 1861, Faulding took on a business partner, Luther Scammell, who was a physician at the time. Faulding died in 1868 and Scammell continued to run the business.

Paralleling the progress of medicine, the pharmaceutical industry grew rapidly in the nineteenth century as a result of new developments in scientific research. Faulding was innovative from its origins in the 1840s and registered a number of important Australian 'firsts', such as the first pharmacist to import chloroform following the discovery of its anaesthetic properties in 1847; to produce olive oil from South Australian olives and to undertake production of antiseptic, under the brand name 'Solyptol', in 1867.<sup>2</sup> 'Solyptol' was a contraction of 'Soluble Eucalyptus Oil'. During the late nineteenth century Australian eucalyptus oil was prized throughout much of the world for its medicinal properties and this product was one of the better known brands at this time.

By the early 1900s, Scammell's two sons, William and Luther had assumed control of the business; indeed, the Scammell family were to remain closely associated with the management of the company into the late twentieth century. In 1921, the business incorporated as a private company.<sup>3</sup> It is from this time that the company developed the slogan, 'If it's Faulding's, it's pure'.<sup>4</sup> By this time Faulding had also expanded into Perth, Sydney and London, though the firm's headquarters remained in Adelaide. The establishment of warehouses in these cities was necessary given the focus of the company on manufacture of pharmaceutical products. It is in this context that a warehouse was planned for Brisbane.

Luther and William Scammell purchased a block of land in Charlotte Street in 1928. In 1929, the property was transferred to George Vance Scammell, Rupert Boswood Scammell and Catherine Matilda Scammell, widow of

William, who died that year. Construction of a purpose-built warehouse was undertaken in the second half of 1931 and in 1932, title of the land and building was transferred to F. H. Faulding & Co Ltd. It is evident from the time between purchase of the land and construction of the warehouse, and the transfer of the property from the Scammells to that of the company itself, that plans for expansion into Brisbane had been mooted for some time. It is also evident that despite the Great Depression, the company was in a position to expand into yet another market because its products were particularly well-known and the company was at the forefront of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

During the 1920s, Brisbane's Central Business District (CBD) underwent close to a decade of rapid growth. Brisbane was seen by many to have achieved a similar, if smaller-scale, degree of development as that of Sydney and Melbourne. The proliferation of 'skyscrapers', which continued to be built into the early 1930s; the popularity of the motor car; concreting of the CBD's major streets; the formation of Greater Brisbane in 1925 and the construction of City Hall were developments that marked the 1920s as a significant decade in the history of Brisbane's CBD.

With the continuing increase in Brisbane's population up to this period and the concomitant expansion of the retail pharmaceutical sector, Brisbane represented a significant market worthy of a purpose-built warehouse to enable the efficient distribution of Faulding products. Rather than see this development as yet another example of Brisbane as a 'branch city' – for Sydney, Perth and London were also 'branches' of the company, which remained based in Adelaide – it is instead a tacit acknowledgment on the part of the company that Brisbane had reached a critical juncture. This reinforced the ebullient observations made throughout the 1920s by the press that Brisbane was "equal in beauty and progressiveness"<sup>5</sup> to Sydney and Melbourne.

Moreover, it is possible to view the construction of the warehouse in even more localised terms – that of the pharmaceutical industry in Brisbane and its concentration in Charlotte Street. According to a Brisbane History Group publication:

A number of wholesale and/or manufacturing chemists were attracted to Charlotte Street in the 1920s and 1930s, including Atherton & Co., wholesale chemists at the corner of Charlotte and Albert Streets, Taylors and Elliots Ltd, wholesale druggists, at the corner of Charlotte and Edward Streets, Field's Teething Powder Co. at 142 Charlotte St, and Potter and Birks Ltd, wholesale chemists, on the second floor of the Commercial Travellers' Association's Sample Rooms in Charlotte Street, just north of St Stephen's Cathedral.<sup>6</sup>

This was part of a consolidation of this particular section of the CBD as a warehouse precinct. Originally known as Frogs Hollow, for much of the nineteenth century the area was one of ill repute, matched by a tendency to flood. By the early 1900s, however, warehouses increasingly dominated the landscape in this area and this process reached its peak in the 1920s and early 1930s, along with the more general growth of the CBD.

Wholesale chemists and manufacturers were clearly part of this process.

The architectural firm of Addison & Macdonald (1928-1940) designed the building. Addison was the son of George Henry Male Addison, who practised architecture in Brisbane from the 1880s. The building is an example of a small brick warehouse design. Of some interest is the distinctive glass brick window on the facade of the building, which allowed extensive natural light into the interior of the building. D. F. Roberts constructed the building with work beginning in mid-1931. The total cost of the building was £8,105.

Faulding & Co continued to use the purpose-built warehouse until its sale in 1957 to Edwards, Dunlop & Co. In 1983 the company opened another purpose-built warehouse at Mayne, a north Brisbane suburb. According to

the Daily Sun, the warehouse “rivalled leading developments at North Ryde, Sydney’s premier industrial area”.<sup>7</sup> It is likely that the company had outgrown its original premises in Charlotte Street by the late 1950s. Edwards, Dunlop & Co retained title of the property until the early 1970s and in 1975 the property was purchased by ‘The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane’. For a considerable period of time the former-warehouse was used as a religious bookshop and it has recently been converted to house the Catholic Church’s archives.

The building remained unaltered until its sale to Edwards, Dunlop & Co in 1957. From that time the building has undergone a number of alterations. In 1957 a vehicle dock was added to the building. The building was extended in 1958 and various other alterations to the warehouse occurred in 1957, 1959 and 1974. A fire escape staircase was added in 1966. The Catholic Church extensively renovated the building in 1976.

Faulding’s continued to remain at the forefront of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Australia. In 2001 the company was taken over by another Australian business, Mayne Pharma. At the time of takeover Faulding and Co was valued at over \$2 billion.<sup>8</sup>

The Brisbane History Group identified the former Faulding Building as a part of Brisbane’s commercial heritage in 2002, when they included it in their publication *Walking Tours – Brisbane’s Commercial Heritage 1900-1940*.

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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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#### Rarity

##### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city’s or local area’s cultural heritage as a rare, surviving example of a small-scale interwar CBD warehouse.

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## References

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3. Mayne Pharma, <http://www.maynepharma.com/AU/318.asp>
4. Brisbane History Group, *Brisbane's Commercial Heritage 1900-1940: Three walking tours of the CBD*, Brisbane History Group Inc., 2002, p. 51
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7. "Warehouse sets a trend", *Daily Sun*, 28 May, 1983, n.p.
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23. Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland), *Buildings of Queensland*, Brisbane, Jacaranda Press, 1959
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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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