

## Heritage Citation



### Fire Station Residence (former)

#### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Valley Fire Station quarters
<b>Addresses</b>	At 265 Harcourt Street, Teneriffe, Queensland 4005
<b>Type of place</b>	Work residence
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Style</b>	Bungalow, Functionalist
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_BUP106305; L3_BUP106305; L5_BUP106305; L6_BUP106305; L7_BUP106305; L8_BUP106305; L4_BUP106305; L2_BUP106305
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — November 2015
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron

**People/associations** G.H.M. Addison & L.G. Corrie (Architect)

**Criterion for listing** (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (H) Historical association

The residence was part of the Valley Fire Station which was opened in 1905 and designed by Fire Brigade Board Architects Addison and Corrie. It served as quarters for the brigade's superintendent until around 1921. The residence was then leased until the fire station closed in 1928. The former fire station became a milk depot and the residence may have been used by a caretaker. The station and residence were converted to flats in 1997.

## History

Between 1860 and 1868 there were five attempts to form a fire fighting service for Brisbane. Each brigade struggled to survive, unable to attract a viable subscription base and hampered by inadequate equipment and an unreliable water supply. The establishment of an effective fire service did not enjoy a high priority among civic and government leaders. The City Volunteer Fire Brigade was established in 1868 under the financial control and management of the Fire Brigade Board. The Board's Central Station operated from the corner of Ann and Edward Streets, with branches later opened in South Brisbane and Petrie Terrace. Volunteer brigades were also established in some suburbs, providing a quick response but operating independently of the Board.

By 1880 a fire brigade station was an overdue necessity for the Fortitude Valley, Teneriffe and Newstead areas. The suburbs were long established and booming in popularity, but ill-prepared for fire. The distance from the Central brigade's Edward Street station meant that valuable time was lost in travel, while a volunteer brigade at New Farm had a limited ability to respond to fires. The loss of several properties in destructive fires in the 1870s and early 1880s led to calls for a hose and reel to be established in the Valley. The equipment had evidently been installed by mid-1882, when they were used to fight a fire in Gibbs Street, but a permanent building was lacking. In 1883 the Brisbane Fire Board announced that it would establish a brigade station in Ann Street in Fortitude Valley, under the charge of Martin Moffatt.

The Valley brigade's workload increased through the 1880s and 1890s with significant residential, industrial and commercial growth in the surrounding suburbs. The Board Superintendent John Hinton raised concerns over the station's capability and response times. The Valley served a wide area as the closest station to the northern suburbs including Bowen Hills, though there were disputes over financial contributions from other divisional boards, and the officer in charge refused to attend fires outside the municipal boundaries. By 1897 Hinton had recommended expanding the station, relocating it to a more central position, and more than doubling its staff. In 1899 Hinton complained that, 'our Valley Station... is standing still, with a continually growing city around us, apparently waiting for the conflagration that is almost sure to come, to force upon us the necessity of strengthening our forces.'<sup>1</sup>

In 1902 the Valley brigade shifted to a rental property in Ballow Street, while the Fire Board began searching for new premises. The demands for a new site were numerous: it was to be situated in a central, easily accessible position, with a water supply, and be large enough to house a horse-drawn engine, horses and a newly-acquired steam engine. Meeting these requirements was a particular challenge in the well-populated district. The Board first requested part of the police reserve on Brookes Street, but this was refused.

In September 1903 the Board proposed the purchase of a site on the corner of Chester and Harcourt Streets for £400. The site was part of two allotments, a one rood and 36.8 perch holding offered for sale in 1899. A house and stables stood on the site, but the corner allotment was apparently undeveloped. It met the Board's requirements and the 34 perch site was transferred to prominent businessman Josiah Young, architect and mayor of Brisbane Leslie Gordon Corrie, and Ernest Wickham, Chairman of the Fire and Accident Underwriters' Association and of the Marine Underwriters' Association, and Fire Brigade Board.

The site sat vacant for some time, and before any work had started on a new station, the Valley experienced one of its largest fires. A fire broke out in the Overell department store on Brunswick Street in February 1904, destroying the building and killing the caretaker. The Overell family blamed the fire brigade's delayed response for the disaster. An inquiry did not implicate the brigade, but the incident highlighted the desperate need for a station with up to date facilities.

In July 1904 George Henry Male Addison advertised for tenders for the erection of a fire brigade station building on Harcourt and Chester streets. Edward Skeen was engaged to build the station. The partnership of G.H.M. Addison and Leslie Gordon Corrie, was formed in 1895 and they became the official architects for the Fire Brigade Board. In August 1904 Addison & Corrie applied for approval for a new Fire Station in August.

Addison was at that time one of Brisbane's most renowned architects. He had moved to Brisbane in the 1880s to establish a branch of Melbourne architecture firm Oakden, Addison and Kemp. He quickly became known in Brisbane for his elaborate and stylish designs, particularly in brick. Although most well-known for his residential work, he also designed a number of public and religious buildings including the Brisbane Exhibition/Museum Building in Bowen Hills (1891) and the Albert Street Uniting Church (1889). Leslie Gordon Corrie had moved to Brisbane on medical advice in 1886 and was soon appointed architect to the Queensland Deposit Bank and Building Society. He went into partnership with Henry Hunter from 1888 to 1892, before his successful partnership with Addison from 1895 to 1905.

The station opened in February 1905. The substantial red-brick building had cost around £1360 to erect. It included 'commodious and airy quarter for the men, and quarters for a married superintendent'. The on-site residence allowed for permanent manning of the station and improved response times, as well as providing convenient accommodation for the superintendent and his family. The brick construction also reduced the risk of conflagration, a particular danger with the new steam engine.

The fire station residence was home to only two superintendents. From 1906 William Younger was in charge of the station and resided in the house with his wife. Younger was replaced by Charles Walsh in 1912, but in June 1921 Walsh collapsed and died after fighting a fire at Newstead. This was the last fire attended by the Valley Brigade while the station was still under the control of the Brisbane Fire Board. The *Fire Brigades Act 1920* centralised control of Brisbane's fire brigade network under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, implementing changes in 1921. The impact on the Valley Station appears to have been to diminish its importance and use. The site was transferred to the new Board in 1923 and the station residence became home to a series of tenants.

In July 1928 the Board announced that the Valley Fire Station would close. Faster steam engines had replaced the old horse-drawn engines, reducing the need for multiple branch stations. The closure was also said to improve the efficiency of the Brigade, against the protests of the local community. The Board advertised the former station for lease, though a proposal to open a laundry in old fire station was rejected in 1929.

The site was sold to Hilda Oswald and Ethel Harvey in 1934. From 1935 they leased the building to milk companies. Pauls Ice Cream and Milk Limited bought the property in 1954 and ran a milk depot from the site. There is no indication of the use of the residence, but it was possibly used by a caretaker.

The company retained the property until 1985. It was subsequently sold and used as a clothing warehouse. In

1997 the fire station was converted to a unit complex. The former fire station residence is now unit 1.

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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

as the residence attached to a fire station built to serve the well-established commercial and residential area of Fortitude Valley in the early twentieth century.

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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 example a substantial early twentieth century fire station, is important in demonstrating the architecture and planning of fire stations at that time, including residential quarters for employees.

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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 rare example of an early twentieth century fire station and attached residence, is important in demonstrating the architecture and planning of fire stations at that time.

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## 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 the Brisbane Fire Brigade Board, as a purpose-built fire station and residence used by the Brigade's Fortitude Valley branch.

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## References

1. *Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 25 March 1899 p11
2. Brisbane City Council Properties on the Web
3. Brisbane City Council aerial photographs, 1946, 2012
4. Brisbane City Council, Surveyor's Notebook 1912
5. Musgrave, Elizabeth and Kaylee Wilson, *New Farm and Teneriffe Hill Heritage and Character Study*, Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Oct 1995
6. Brisbane City Council City Architecture and Heritage Team, citations
7. Calthorpe, KD and Capell, K, *Brisbane on Fire (1997) and Brisbane Ablaze: A history of fire-fighting 1921-1990* (2001)
8. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
9. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Balmoral Fire Station [601530]
10. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Coorparoo Fire Station [600569]
11. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Nundah Fire Station [602119]
12. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Ithaca Fire Station (former) [601119]
13. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Albion Fire Station (former) [602246]
14. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Wynnum Fire Station [602143]
15. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Entries on the Queensland Heritage Register, Yeronga Fire Station (former) [602144]
16. Queensland Places, Teneriffe, Newstead (website)

- 17. Queensland Post Office Directories, 1868-1940
  - 18. *The Brisbane Courier, The Queenslander, The Courier Mail.*
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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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