

Heritage Citation



Golf Clubhouse (former)

Key details

Also known as	Brisbane Golf Club Clubhouse
Addresses	At 115 Honour Avenue, Chelmer, Queensland 4068
Type of place	Club house
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L15_RP29370; L16_RP29370
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — September 2013
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations	Hall and Dods (Architect)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical
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The Brisbane Golf Club was the first golf club to be established in Brisbane and the third in Queensland. The club originally had 11 members when it formed in 1896, many of whom comprised Brisbane's elite and were members of the exclusive Queensland Club. The clubhouse was constructed in 1897 and served as the club's headquarters until 1904 when the club moved to Yeerongpilly due to encroaching residential development in the area. It has since been converted into a private residence and is now located on a neighbouring lot after being moved sometime in the early 1900s.

History

On 4th November 1896, 11 golf enthusiasts met and decided to form Brisbane's first golf club. It was to be Queensland's third club, after North Queensland (Townsville) and Toowoomba. This effort was prompted by the Reverend George Horsfall Frodsham (later Anglican Bishop of North Queensland), who had recently arrived in Brisbane from Yorkshire. Chelmer was chosen as a suitable site, and the first 9-hole game was played in December 1896. It was the third in Queensland after North Queensland and Toowoomba Golf Clubs.

The meeting was chaired by Reverend Frodsham and a course was planned for land adjacent to Chelmer Railway Station. Initially, some of the land was granted to the club as a free lease by its owner, JL Cardno. On Saturday 19 December 1896 the Queensland newspaper reported that the "progress made in connection with the recently formed Brisbane Golf Club had been so satisfactory that the links at Chelmer were formally opened on Saturday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor"¹. The Governor of Queensland at the time was Lord Lamington, who was also an avid golfer and founding member of the Brisbane Golf Club. When opened, the club had a membership of forty men. At the end of the opening day, refreshments were offered in a large tent by ladies from the district; a need for a permanent clubhouse was clear from the first day.

At the club's first annual meeting, membership had risen to sixty-eight and the construction of a clubhouse was underway. It was designed by noted Brisbane architect Robin Dods - an innovative and influential architect who made a major contribution to the development of housing design in Queensland. For his contribution to the club he was awarded an honorary membership for "having prepared plans and superintended the erection of the house"². This was the beginning of Dods' long association with the club which continued until his death in 1920.

The first Vice President, Alexander McIntosh, general manager of the Royal Bank of Queensland, had secured a £150 loan to build the clubhouse, which was officially opened in July 1897 by the club President and Governor of Queensland Lord Lamington. The club was the preserve of Brisbane's elite and during the first decade of the club, over half its members were also members of the exclusive Queensland Club.

By 1899 the golf club had grown to such an extent that a larger clubhouse was required. As the land at Chelmer was only leased and urban development was surrounding the course, it was decided to investigate options for a new site for the course. Some years of considering options followed until in 1903 about one hundred and ten acres were offered for purchase at Yeerongpilly. The new site had the advantages of being near permanent

water and a railway station for golfers travelling further than a buggy ride distance as well as being available for purchase rather than lease, giving the club security of tenure and future development options. In 1904 the golf club moved to Yeerongpilly where it remains today.

Today, the former clubhouse has been converted into a house and first floor verandahs have been added.

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

as the former clubhouse of Brisbane's first golf club, signifying the adoption in the late nineteenth century of what was to become a popular sport in Brisbane; and, as evidence of Chelmer's residential development in the early 1900s.

References

1. *The Queenslander*, 19 December 1896
2. *The Queenslander*, 27 November 1897
3. Queensland Certificates of Title
4. Queensland Post Office Directories
5. Brisbane Golf Club *A Short History*, www.brisbanegolfclub.com.au
6. Queensland Government. Queensland WWII Historic Places website
<http://www.publicworks.qld.gov.au/sites/qldwwiiplaces/pages/SearchResults.aspx?SearchText=Yeerongpilly&Filter>
7. B.S. Richter *The Fairway is Mine: One Hundred Years of The Brisbane Golf Club 1896-1996* The Brisbane Golf Club, 1996

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



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