

Heritage



Hansom Horse & Cart Cab Company Building (former)

Key details

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| Also known as | Munro's Typewriters |
| Addresses | At 58 St Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill, Queensland 4000 |
| Type of place | Shop/s |
| Period | Colonial 1842-1860 |
| Style | Free Classical |
| Lot plan | L1_BUP102805; L4_BUP102805; L2_SP235421; L3_SP235421; L5_SP235421 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Information — June 2011 |
| Construction | Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry |

This building was constructed circa 1856 as an office block for the Hansom Horse and Cart Cab Company who operated a horse-drawn taxi service around Brisbane in the late nineteenth century. After they sold the building in 1878, it became a retail premises and operated as a tailor's shop and later, a corner store, before being used as a brothel during World War II. From 1950 until 1993, the building was the headquarters for Munro Typewriters and has continued to operate as commercial and retail premises into the twenty-first century.

History

This building was reputedly erected circa 1856 as offices for the Handsome Horse and Cart Cab Company. They provided a horse-drawn taxi service for Brisbane's residents. By 1874, this two-storey building was being used by William Maies for his residence and butcher's shop. In 1878, William Ohlrich was running his tailor's shop from the premises. Thereafter it housed a variety of commercial operations including Capp's General Store in the early 1900s and later Mrs Dibble's Corner Store. During World War Two, the premises were used as a brothel. In 1950, Munro Typewriters (founded 1890) moved their headquarters from Heindorff House in the City to the shop at the corner of Rogers Street and St Pauls Terrace. Munro Typewriters remained at the site until 1993 when David Tyler bought the property. He built a two-storey replica shop and residence next to the 1856 building. The current owners, the Optometrists Association of Australia (Queensland and Northern Territory Branch) purchased the building in 2001 and the Association considers "the heritage listing is the icing on the cake" in their efforts to preserve the history of their profession and this building.

References

1. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
2. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
3. Brisbane City Council's Central Library, local history sheets
4. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
5. John Oxley Library, *Parish of Nundah, County of Stanley, L.A.D. of Brisbane map*, (1899 land grant map).
6. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs – Estate Maps
7. Queensland Government, *Queensland Pioneers Index 1829-1889*, (Brisbane: Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2000)
8. *Queensland Post Office Directories*, 1868-1949

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Note: This information 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 information 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.

prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised March 2023)



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