

## Heritage Citation



### Henry Thomas Chemist Building (former)

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 1192 Sandgate Road, Nundah, Queensland 4012
<b>Type of place</b>	Shop/s
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP34080
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — March 2010

**Construction**

Roof: Corrugated iron;  
Walls: Timber

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity

This interwar commercial building comprising three stores was constructed circa 1920 for chemist Henry Thomas. Thomas established a chemist shop in the centre store and leased the two outer stores. It remained in use as a chemist's for many years, mostly under the ownership of Alexander Shearer. In recent years the stores have been adapted to other purposes, including a thrift shop, restaurant and travel agency.

---

## History

The original deed of grant was issued on this property in July 1856 to George Bridges. The land then passed through a number of owners, including the one time Lord Mayor of the Shire of Toombul, Isaac Stuckey. Stuckey purchased the property in June 1885 during the land and building boom of the 1880s. The land, following Stuckey's death in 1902, remained under the ownership of the Stuckey family, with Stuckey's widow apparently marrying Isaac's brother James. At this stage the property was 2 roods in size.

Following the death of both James and his wife, in 1915 and 1906 respectively, the land was gradually sold off in small parcels between the years of 1916 and 1919. It was at this time nearby Chapel Street was created. From this sale Henry Thomas purchased just over 17? perches. Thomas ran a chemist shop in nearby Station Street at Nundah.

Thomas constructed the shops at 1192 Sandgate Road sometime between 1919 and 1920. It building comprised then, as it does now, of three shops with the chemist store located in the centre shop. The other tenant was the Commercial Bank of Australia.

Unfortunately, Thomas died shortly after its construction. Following the settlement of his estate the shop was sold to Alexander and Maude Shearer. Shearer had previously operated a chemist store at South Brisbane and this property remained in the Shearer family until the late 1970s.

The shop was constructed during the early interwar period at a time when the northern end of the commercial centre of Nundah was expanding. The picture theatre had opened around 1918 and the middle of the 1920s saw further commercial premises being constructed and opened in the locale.

Prior to WWII the store was given its present Art Deco style facade. This style of facade in conjunction with the remodelled Imperial Picture Theatre situated across the road would have produced an attractive shopping precinct during the interwar period at the Nundah commercial centre.

---

## Description

This is a typical commercial building erected in the early interwar period on the street alignment of Sandgate Road in Nundah. The front of the building is of two-storey rendered masonry construction with an asymmetrical street frontage above the awning line.

The stepped parapet conceals the corrugated iron roof of the building. A pattern of decorative moulding lines the perimeter of the parapet. The parapet contains two large windows and a smaller circular window located centrally in between. A masonry slab overhang shades the windows from above.

Behind the main rendered masonry façade the building is clad in timber and roofed with a corrugated iron hipped gable. Metal rods provide structural support for the suspended awning above the building entry.

The building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Sandgate Road as its form and materials are part of the commercial pattern of the street.

---

## 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 shop was built at a time when this part of the Nundah commercial centre was expanding in response to the steady growth of the district.

---

#### Rarity

##### CRITERION B

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

as it is a surviving example of an early-interwar commercial premises constructed within the Nundah commercial precinct.

---

## References

1. *Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir*. August 1924.p.171
2. Brisbane City Council Detail Plan No: 313
3. Certificates of Title.
4. Nundah and Districts Historical Society Archive Files. Includes Photographs
5. Nundah and Districts Historical Society *Old Toombul Shire*
6. Post Office Directories.
7. Queensland Government Gazette. 25 June, 1921
8. Queensland State Archives. Public Curator of Qld as Administrator. Order 4 November 1920 No: 642 of Film No:Z1090

---

## Copyright Brisbane City Council

**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 September 2020)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*