

Heritage Citation



Imperial Cafe (former)

Key details

Also known as	St Vincent de Paul Centre
Addresses	At 1279 Sandgate Road, Nundah, Queensland 4012
Type of place	Shop/s
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Classical

Lot plan L1_RP109926

Key dates Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005
Date of Citation — October 2010

Construction Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Face brick

Criterion for listing (A) Historical

This single storey brick building, which originally opened as the Imperial Cafe, was constructed between 1922 and 1925 for Florence and Charles Rose who owned the Imperial Picture Pavilion picture theatre next door. It was at this time that this part of Nundah began to be developed commercially and a shopping precinct emerged, evidence of which can still be seen along Sandgate Road today. The Roses leased the cafe to Misses Little and Auld, and Miss Little ran the cafe until the picture theatre was closed and subsequently demolished in 1965. In 2002, the shop was reopened as a traditional teahouse.

History

The Imperial Picture Pavilion opened circa 1918 and operated as a picture theatre until its closure and subsequent demolition circa 1965. The owners of the theatre, Florence and Charles Rose, who lived locally, erected the café obviously aware of the need for such an enterprise in close proximity to their picture theatre.

Land for the café was purchased in December 1921 and according to Post Office Directories it was operating by 1925. At the time of purchase by the Roses the size of the allotment stood at just over 16 perches. Gradually, over the years due to the need for easements and pressure for space within the Nundah shopping precinct, the allotment has been reduced to just over 8 perches in size (207sq.m).

The owners leased the café to Misses Little and Auld. Miss Alud retired some years later and Miss Little apparently continued until the theatre was sold. During the late 1990s, the shop was operating as an Opportunity Shop run by St Vincent De Paul.

Evidence indicates that until the mid 1920s the section of Sandgate Road, inbound, between Station and Park Streets contained only two buildings, the picture theatre and Dyer's store. A number of buildings, principally shops, were subsequently erected after this time.

In circa 1930 the Nundah picture theatre underwent refurbishment. This refurbishment included the addition of a new and grander facade. The post World War I period saw an enormous growth in picture theatres in Brisbane and Queensland. Pre WWI Queensland saw 15 picture theatres listed as operating in Queensland. By circa 1920 this figure had climbed to over 80 and by 1930 nearly 180 theatres are shown as operating throughout Queensland.¹ Nearly every Brisbane suburb was operating a picture theatre. The picture theatre had become a popular and relatively affordable entertainment and meeting place, situated within local areas.

The Imperial Picture Theatre at Nundah, operating for over 50 years, was particularly important to the community

not only as an entertainment centre, but also a centre

where community events could be, and were, staged. The need for refreshments in the café next door would have been part of the entertainment and recreation offered.

In 2000, during a period of growth and rejuvenation in the commercial precinct of Nundah, the building was reopened as Queenies' Traditional Teashop.

Description

Built on the street alignment of Sandgate road in Nundah, this single storey commercial building was built in the early 1920s. The building's front elevation from Sandgate Road is characterised by its brick construction and corrugated iron awning.

It has a symmetrical frontage with a rendered brick parapet and a separate awning attached to the front. The awning is a skillion roof supported by two square timber posts along the Sandgate Road facade. The shop signage is mounted on the awning front, between the supporting timber post.

Two brick pillars bound the parapet on either side. The parapet is stepped symmetrically about the building's frontage decorated by masonry balustrading and capped with a masonry cornice. The building makes an important contribution to the history of the streetscape of Sandgate Road as its form and scale are part of the pattern within the history of the street, relating to commercial usage.

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 a remnant of the commercial hub which was established along Sandgate Road, Nundah during the interwar era.

References

1. Figures taken from "Theatres and Picture Shows" in the Post Office Directories for the years 1913-15, 1920-21, and 1930.
 2. Brisbane City Council. Detail Plan: 1313
 3. Certificates of Title.
 4. *The Daily Mail* 1 February, 1930
 5. Nundah Historical Society Archives. File on Imperial Theatre. Also note on "Imperial Picture Theatre, Nundah". By N. Adamson. 1991
 6. Post Office Directories.
 7. *The Standard*. Saturday 8 March, 1930. p.9
 8. *Telegraph* 11 December, 1965
 9. Unsourced Newspaper article, 13 August, 1975
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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 September 2020)



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