

Heritage Citation



Morgan and Wacker (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 12 Mclachlan Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006
Type of place	Warehouse, Workshop
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Classical
Lot plan	L2_SP198103; L6_SP198091; L7_SP198093; L15_SP198103; L1_SP198100; L11_SP198099; L2_SP198094; L14_SP198098; L10_SP198096; L12_SP198097 ; L40_SP238935; L101_SP233971
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — January 2012
People/associations	Bob Morgan and Henry Wacker (Occupant)

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (H) Historical association

This single-storey building was constructed circa 1925 as a workshop and storage facility for motorcycle company Morgan and Wacker which was established by Bob Morgan and Henry Wacker in Elizabeth Street in 1917. They continued to operate from the McLachlan Street premises until 1967 when the business was moved to Newstead. They are the longest serving distributors of Harley Davidson motorcycles outside of the United States.

History

The land on which this building stands was acquired by Brisbane doctor William Samuel Byrne in July 1888 and transferred to his wife Annie Elizabeth Byrne in 1893. The property is recorded as being leased from 1900 to members of the McDonald family, who held a broom manufacturing and rattan and bamboo furniture business in nearby Ann Street to 1902.

From around 1902 to 1906 the right hand side of Hall St to Brunswick St appears to have been vacant. It was leased from 1903 to the Stewart family, owners of the Stewart & Sons clothing factory at the corner of Hall and Marshall Streets.

The firm of Alexander Stewart & Sons, previously Hemmant and Stewart, had been established drapers in Brisbane for many years when they built a modern clothing factory on the corner of Hall and Marshall Streets in 1898. By 1900 it employed approximately 350 people, mostly women, in its factory. The company continued to expand along the block, establishing a hat-making factory nearby and in 1904-05 constructing additions to the clothing factory in Hall Street.

By June 1925 a single storey building had been constructed and was leased as a workshop and storage facility for motorcycle company Morgan and Wacker, which had been established by Bob Morgan and Henry Wacker in Elizabeth Street in 1917. Due to ill health Morgan was forced to retire from the company only six months after it was established – but his name has stayed with the company ever since. Henry's four brothers eventually joined him in the running of the business.

Karl, Henry and Willie Wacker took out a five year lease on this property in 1925. The new premises allowed the transfer of the company's workshop and service station to Fortitude Valley, freeing up the Elizabeth St headquarters. Recognising that there was also an urgent need for parking spaces for motorcycles across the city, Morgan and Wacker established motorcycle parking stations at both premises at 'a moderate rental'. The following year Karl, Heinrich and Albert Wacker purchased the Hall Street property.

The company struggled during the 1930s depression, but during World War II the workshop was used to service US Army Harley Davidson motorcycles. Morgan and Wacker continued to operate from the McLachlan Street premises until 1967 when the business was moved to Newstead. They were the longest serving distributors of Harley Davidson motorcycles outside of the United States.

Description

This is a one-storey brick warehouse building with a gable roof, clad with corrugated metal sheets. The façade is simple with a gable pediment and three openings at street level.

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 one of a number of buildings constructed as part of the significant commercial development that occurred in Fortitude Valley in the 1920s.

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

as a relatively rare example of an early twentieth century, single storey commercial building in Brisbane's inner city.

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

as a building owned and occupied by prominent Brisbane motorcycle company Morgan and Wacker for more

than 40 years.

References

1. *Brisbane Courier*, 1866-1933
 2. Fortitude Valley Centenary Committee, *Fortitude Valley Centenary 1948-1949*,
 3. Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Detail Plan No 154
 4. Brisbane City Council Surveyors Notebooks
 5. Queensland Post Office Directories
 6. Queensland Land Titles Office Records
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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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