

Heritage Citation



Nahoun

Key details

Addresses	At 20 Davidson Street, Newmarket, Queensland 4051; At 26 Davidson Street, Newmarket, Queensland 4051
Type of place	House
Period	World War I 1914-1918
Style	Bungalow
Lot plan	L24_RP20059; L22_RP20059
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — March 2002
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations Cowlishaw family (Association);
James Percy Owen Cowlishaw (Architect)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This fine timber house was designed by prominent Brisbane architect, James Percy Owen Cowlishaw in 1915 for his brother, Eric Cowlishaw and his wife, May. Their father was well known architect, businessman and politician James Cowlishaw. The house remains substantially intact with only minor additions and, more than 90 years later, is still owned by the Cowlishaw family. 'Nahoun' is particularly significant for its association with this prominent and successful Brisbane family, and as evidence of the consolidation of Newmarket as a residential suburb early this century.

History

This substantial house in Davidson Street, Newmarket, was built in 1915 for Eric Burgoyne Owen Cowlishaw, a dental surgeon, and his wife, May. Eric Cowlishaw was the son of James Cowlishaw MLC, a prominent Brisbane architect and businessman. The house was designed by James Cowlishaw's son, James Percy Owen Cowlishaw, also an architect.

The land on which the house is situated was included in 61 acres (portions 280 and 281) purchased by Robert Davidson by deed of grant in 1859. This land, bounded by Enoggera Creek and Enoggera Road was gradually subdivided and sold from the 1860s onwards. Davidson Street and Edith Street (now Thurlow Street) were named for Robert Davidson and his wife, Edith.

Newmarket, situated on the route north to Kilcoy and Gympie, had developed with the establishment of the stock salesyard in Newmarket Road in the late 1870s. Residential development at Newmarket was further stimulated by the opening of the railway to Enoggera in 1899 and the extension of the Kelvin Grove tramline along Enoggera Road in 1903. In the early decades of the twentieth century, the area was largely a middle-class residential district which had retained a rural atmosphere.

The Cowlishaw's home was constructed at a time when half a dozen houses already existed in Davidson Street. In 1883, a wooden church hall had been erected by the Bible Christian section of the Methodist Church on the corner of Davidson Street and Enoggera Road. The first house was built in Davidson Street around 1900.

Eric Burgoyne Owen Cowlishaw was born in 1883 and lived at Montpelier House, the family home, which was purchased by his father in 1870. He studied dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1905. In 1915, he married May Thurlow, who had previously lived in the Thurlow family home, Saxmundham, in nearby Edith Street (now Thurlow Street).

The site of the house, allotment 22, was purchased by May Cowlishaw from her mother, Phoebe Ann Thurlow in 1915 along with the adjacent allotment 20. Phoebe Anne Thurlow, and her husband, businessman and politician Robert Woods Thurlow, had resided at Saxmundham since the early 1880s and owned several allotments between Davidson Street and Edith Street. The Cowlishaw family acquired two more allotments adjoining their property in 1923. After Eric and May Cowlishaw were married, they moved into their newly built home at 20

Davidson Street, which they named Nahoun.

The Cowlishaw family believe that the house was designed by Eric's brother, James Percy Owen Cowlishaw. James Percy Owen was born in Brisbane in 1867. After attending the Brisbane Grammar School, he was articled to architect J.J. Clark. In 1885, Cowlishaw joined the Queensland Public Works Department as a cadet. He returned to work with J.J. Clark in 1887. Cowlishaw practised privately in Brisbane from 1896 to the 1920s. He was the architect to the Commercial Banking Co., designing many of its buildings in Queensland. Other buildings designed by Cowlishaw included the Brisbane Gas Co. offices at Petrie Bight and the Lady O'Connell Wing of the Brisbane Children's Hospital, both since demolished. James Percy Owen Cowlishaw died in 1925.

Eric Cowlishaw continued to live at 20 Davidson Street until his death in 1954. On the death of May Cowlishaw on 24 August 1984, the allotment on which the house is situated passed to her descendants as tenants-in-common. The house has remained in the Cowlishaw family to the present day. It has had three small additions at the rear and sides. The interior of the house remains highly intact. The front garden contains a large hoop pine planted by Eric and May Cowlishaw.

Nahoun is significant for its association with the Cowlishaw family and as evidence of the consolidation of Newmarket as a residential suburb early this century.

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 evidence of the consolidation of Newmarket as a middle-class residential suburb in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a fine example of an early twentieth century, middle class, architect-designed Bungalow style house in

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an attractive, substantially intact, architect-designed Asymmetrical Bungalow style private residence that makes a fine contribution to the streetscape of Davidson Street.

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

for its association of more than 90 years with the Cowlshaw family, a notable professional Brisbane family, and more specifically as an example of a residence built by architect James Owen Percy Cowlshaw.

References

1. *Methodist Times*, 5 October 1933
2. Queensland Certificates of Title
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*. Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
5. Information kindly provided by the Cowlshaw family, site visit 4 March 1997 and 24 January 2002

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 June 2022)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane