

Heritage Citation



Newmarket - Grange Progress Association

Key details

Addresses	At 187 Wilston Road, Newmarket, Queensland 4051
Type of place	Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L7_RP19941; L8_RP19941
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (G) Social

This hall was built in 1923 for the Newmarket-Grange Progress Association, which had formed in 1913. Progress associations were more popular in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and tended to form in residential areas that were either developing or had a strong middle class component. Their role was to lobby local and state governments for better access to public services including education, police, transport etc. As the Association grew, they raised funds to make additions and modifications to the hall, which included the addition of a toilet block in 1951. In 1989, title of the property was officially transferred to The Grange Progress Association, who still hold regular meetings in the hall.

History

The Newmarket-Grange Progress Association Hall was built in 1923 to house the activities of the local progress association.

Progress associations were formed in many suburbs of Brisbane from the 19th century onwards. Some, including the Grange Progress Association (now the Newmarket-Grange Progress Association) are still operating at present. Although widespread in Australian towns and cities until the mid-20th century, Progress Associations are a less common phenomenon today. Surviving progress association halls elsewhere in Brisbane include the Salisbury Public Hall which has been lowered and substantially altered.

Established by concerned residents, progress associations lobbied local and state government authorities for the provision of necessary services such as schools, police stations and public transport. They were defined by one Brisbane advocate in the 1940s as 'a union of the residents of any locality with the object of improving living conditions for themselves through the development of their district in particular, and the country in which they live in general'. Progress Associations tended to emerge particularly in areas with a large middle class component and/or in newly developing districts. Nearby Wilston also had a Progress Association during the 1920s, which was involved in the lobbying for the tramway extension to the Grange.

The block of land on which the hall is built was purchased by pastoralist, Boyd Dunlop Morehead, in 1898 when he was Premier of Queensland. Morehead mortgaged the land to the Queensland National Bank the same year and in 1899, the land was transferred to the bank. From August 1923, a portion of the land on the corner of Daisy St and Wilston Rd was held in trust, presumably for the local Progress Association. Title was officially transferred to the Grange Progress Association in 1989.

The hall was reportedly built in 1923 in one day, with a fundraising dance held the same night. Funds towards the building of the hall were also donated by the Windsor Town Council. By 1929, membership of the Association had grown to 157.

By the early 1920s, Newmarket and the Grange were well established as residential suburbs, although the area retained its rural flavour for several more decades. Development was stimulated by the opening of the railway through Wilston and Newmarket in 1899. As the population grew in the first few decades of the 20th century, more community buildings and services were required. The Wilston State School was established in 1920 to cater to the educational needs of local families.

According to Mr George Ward, a long time member of the Newmarket Grange Progress Association, prior to the construction of the hall, the Newmarket-Grange Progress Association met in the home of its president, Mr Massey, on the corner of Wilston Road and South Street. However, Post Office Directories show the existence of a Progress Association Hall in Wilston Road, between Abuklea and Montpelier Streets (closer to the railway line) from 1915-16.

The hall on the corner of Daisy Street and Wilston Road was initially quite small with window openings but no windows due to a lack of funds. As the Progress Association grew and funds were available additions and improvements were made to the hall. A sanitary block was added to the rear of the hall in 1951.

At present, the hall is used for many different community functions, including dancing and martial arts classes. Because of its long association with the local Progress Association and its use by various community groups over the decades, the hall has played an important part in the community life of local residents.

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 growth of the Newmarket/Grange area during the interwar period as a middle-class suburban locality.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as an example of an interwar community hall.

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as the meeting hall of the Newmarket - Grange Progress Association, an important community organisation who have lobbied for the provision of necessary services for the Newmarket and Grange communities since 1923.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
2. Brisbane City Council Minutes
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Maps
4. *Brisbane Courier*. 4 July 1932
5. Mullins, Patrick. Progress associations and urban development: the Gold Coast, 1945-79". *Urban Policy and Research*. Vol. 13, No. 2 (1995), 67-80
6. Queensland Certificates of Title
7. Ward, George. Newmarket-Grange Progress Association. Phone conversations, 16 April 1998 and 14 March 2002
8. Windsor and Districts Historical Society photographic collection

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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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