

Heritage Citation



Northgate Masonic Lodge (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 183 Gympie Street, Northgate, Queensland 4013
Type of place	Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L32_RP34551; L33_RP34551
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — September 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This two-storey timber hall was opened in 1928 as the Northgate Masonic Lodge. The Lodge was originally formed in 1922 with 39 foundation members and regularly met in the Northgate School of Arts. With good transport links, low land prices and a central location, Gympie Street at Northgate provided a good site for a new hall. In the late 1980s/1990s, the hall was sold and the Lodge moved to the Northside Masonic Centre at Sandgate.

History

The Northgate Masonic Lodge in Gympie Street was opened in 1928. It was situated in a quiet street close to the railway line through Northgate.

Interested parties first met at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Gympie St Virginia on 29 August 1921 for the express purpose of forming a 'new Masonic Lodge' at Northgate. The area had undergone some growth and was advertised as having the potential 'to become one of Brisbane's leading residential suburbs.....'¹ The Northgate Estate developed by R.G. Oates in the 1920s boasted both water and electricity for new residents.

The Lodge Northgate as it was initially called, held its concretion ceremony in the Northgate School of Arts on 28 January, 1922 and was formed with 39 foundation members. In October of the same year a committee was formed with the sole purpose of the construction of its own Masonic Hall. Several sites were inspected with the eventual recommendation that the site in Gympie Street be purchased for £180/0/0. The amount was to be raised "by donations from the brethren and also the proceeds of many social functions".² The proximity to the railway line, the central location of Gympie Street and the lower price of the property undoubtedly provided inducement to purchase the allotment.

In 1926, the same year the land was transferred to three trustees and a committee was "formed to investigate ways and means to finance the building of the hall."³ In 1927 it was reported that the Lodge held £810/0/0 in cash and debentures "towards the hall." While controversy had appeared over the means by which the money was to be levied on members, an application was submitted on 5 July 1928 for the construction of a 'Masonic Hall'. The work was to be undertaken by 'Day Labour' (possibly Lodge volunteers working in the evenings and weekends) and the anticipated cost of the work was £1,100/0/0. The hall was completed in September 1928 and the first function was a 'ladies night' held on 6 October, 1928.

The first social committee was formed in 1923 and set about organising dances and events. The Masonic Ball "became an annual event eagerly awaited by the residents of the district."⁴ The lodge was also involved with supporting members and families of the area during the 'great depression' of the 1930s. It continued to be a community hub throughout the following decades.

In the late 1980s to early 1990s the decision was made to sell the hall, with the Northgate Lodge moving to meet in the Northside Masonic Centre at Sandgate. Many items and fittings from the hall were transferred over to the Sandgate centre. Despite the sale, the spirit and objectives of the original Lodge members was continued with the money from the sale of the hall being invested in such a manner which enabled benefits to be provided for the members and their families.

Small additions were made to the building over the years with such necessities as more toilets being added. The property at the time of the sale by the Lodge was described as 'One of the landmarks of the Northgate area in by gone days'⁵ It was subsequently converted into a residence and artists' studio.

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 and development that occurred in the Northgate area during the interwar period.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places
as good example of a timber interwar lodge hall.

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 the headquarters of the Northgate Masonic Lodge for more than 60 years.

References

1. Brochure from Nundah and Districts Historical Society - possibly advertising the Oats estate
 2. *Northgate Lodge No.285 U.G.L.Q: Golden Jubilee 1922 - 1972*. Northgate Masonic Temple. 28 January 1972. p.6
 3. *Ibid.* pp. 6 & 8
 4. *Ibid.*, p.8.
 5. Newspaper advertisement for Nationwide Realty, Clayfield. Date of advertisement not supplied.
 6. Interview with Mr. F Forthergill. Secretary. Northgate Lodge
 7. *Northgate Lodge No.285 U.G.L.Q: Silver Anniversary: Installation of Bro. J Sprott as Master and Investiture of Officers for 1947-48*. Masonic Hall. 8 March 1947
 8. *Northgate Lodge No.285 U.G.L.Q: Golden Jubilee 1922 - 1972*. Northgate Masonic Temple. 28 January 1972
 9. *Northgate Lodge No.285 U.G.L.Q: Diamond Jubilee 1922 - 1997*. Northgate Masonic Temple. 29 January 1997
 10. Northgate Lodge: Minute Book; Number 1. 29 August, 1921 - 9 April, 1927
 11. Northgate Lodge: Minute Book; Number 2. 14 May, 1927 - 13 February, 1932
 12. Nundah and Districts Historical Society files. (Various uncited newspaper articles)
 13. Post Office Directories.
 14. *Trustees File: Northside Masonic Centre, Sandgate*
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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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