

Heritage Citation



Pagoda Villa

Key details

Addresses	At 146 Bonney Avenue, Clayfield, Queensland 4011
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queen Anne
Lot plan	L4_RP45312
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — March 2011
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations George Watson Jnr (Occupant);
John Hall and Son (Architect)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (H) Historical association

'Pagoda Villa' was designed by architectural firm John Hall and Sons, for George (junior) and Harriet Watson in 1888. George was one of the partners of Watson Brothers, plumbers and gasfitters, with workshops in Edward Street and stores and office in Eagle Street. An Alderman from 1891 until his retirement in 1896, George Watson was also Mayor of Brisbane in 1893.

History

'Pagoda Villa' was designed by architectural firm John Hall and Sons for George (junior) and Harriet Watson in 1888. The property was held in Harriets name from 1882 to her death in 1926. It passed to members of the Watson family but was sold on in 1929.

George Watson, plumber, migrated to Brisbane in 1862 and established a plumbing business. In 1880 George retired leaving four sons, George junior, Thomas, James and John to continue the business. By 1886 the business known as Watson Brothers was well established as plumbers, gasfitters and galvanised iron and lead works, with workshops in Edward Street and stores and office in Eagle Street.

Exceptional growth in the population and an economic boom in the 1880s prompted an unprecedented increase in building. Despite serious flooding and an economic depression in the 1890s, Watson Brothers was successful as were George junior's political aspirations. An Alderman from 1891 until his retirement in 1896, he was Mayor of Brisbane in 1893.

During WWI Watson Brothers carried out plumbing alterations to 90% of all vessels converted to troopships in Queensland, and sent tradesmen to Sydney for the same task. In WWII Watson Brothers provided equipment for Australian and US forces in Brisbane. The business remained a family enterprise until 1961 when it was forced into liquidation.

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 it provides evidence of the impact of the economic boom which peaked circa 1888.

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

specifically George Watson junior, partner of the prominent Brisbane firm Watson Brothers, and Mayor of Brisbane; and with the architectural firm of John Hall and Sons.

References

1. Queensland Title Deeds
 2. Queensland Post Office Directories
 3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plan 465
 4. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
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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 June 2022)



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