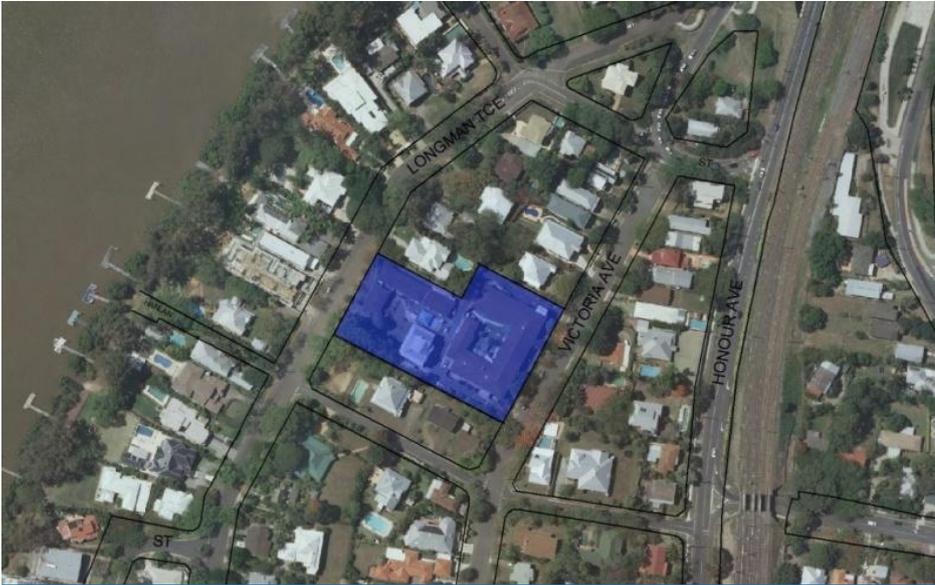


Heritage Citation



Pontresina

Key details

Also known as	Warrina Village
Addresses	At 66 Longman Terrace, Chelmer, Queensland 4068
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L4_RP163091
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — May 2015
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Brick - Painted
People/associations	the Salvation Army (Association)

This large, brick, two-storey house was constructed circa 1889-90 by Sophia Montefiore, the widow of Arthur Montefiore, an accountant with the Queensland National Bank. It is likely that 'Pontresina' was designed by prominent Queensland architect, FDG Stanley. Sophia Montefiore lived at 'Pontresina' for only a short time before selling the property to Rachel McQueen, the wife of Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Sweyn McQueen. The Salvation Army acquired 'Pontresina' in 1920 and established an "Industrial School" charitable institution for neglected children in the house in 1923. The land around the house was later developed by the Salvation Army as 'Warrina Village', an aged care facility.

History

Chelmer and the surrounding area were leased by Thomas Boyland as a cattle and sheep run from the 1840s, giving the district the name of Boyland's Pocket. In the 1860s, the land was subdivided and taken up by farmers who sent their crops to Brisbane and Ipswich by boat. With the coming of the railway from Ipswich to Roma Street in 1876 which provided easy access to the business and commercial centres of Brisbane, the area gradually developed as a semi-rural outpost where substantial homes were built on expansive grounds. Oxley Point Railway Station at the southern crossing of the Albert Bridge from Indooroopilly was renamed Riverton Station in 1888, lending its name to the Riverton Estate which was subdivided for residential sale from the 1880s. Riverton Station was closed in 1889 and replaced by Chelmer Station further to the south.

In 1896, Sophia Montefiore purchased five allotments in the Riverton Estate between Albert Street (now Longman Terrace) and River Terrace (now Laurel Avenue). Sophia acquired an adjoining three allotments to the north in 1889 before building her new home across four allotments.

It appears likely that Sophia Montefiore engaged prominent Brisbane architect, FDG Stanley, to design 'Pontresina'. The Montefiore family had a connection to Stanley as the architect had designed several bank buildings for the Queensland National Bank. 'Pontresina' is probably the "two storey brick house at Riverton" put out for tender by FDG Stanley in the Brisbane Courier on 19 October 1889.

Sophia and Arthur Montefiore resided at their new home during the late 1880s and early 1890s. Sophia continued to live at 'Pontresina' after Arthur's death in 1893, but in 1902, she sold the property and moved to her new home, 'Wahgunya' on the other side of Victoria Avenue (then named Albert Street).

'Pontresina' was purchased by Rachel Cecilia MacQueen, wife of Reverend William Sweyn MacQueen, of the Ann St Presbyterian Church. The MacQueens added to the grounds of their new home by purchasing an additional seven allotments to the north in 1906 and 1907 and advertised the property for lease during this period before offering it for sale in 1909. An advertisement in the *Telegraph* on 10 Sept 1909 described 'Pontresina' as a "charming suburban residence" with six bedrooms, verandahs on all sides and "Servants' Rooms". It went on to emphasise the beauty of the position and grounds:

'Pontresina' is very beautifully situated on a grassy knoll above flood level, and overlooking the Brisbane River; within two or three minutes' walk of Chelmer railway station.... [T]he grounds are prettily laid out in fruit and flower gardens, lawns and well-matured evergreen shrubs and ornamental trees....Additional areas for cow paddock and stable yard, with stable &c., thereon, can

be purchased if required.

After the death of Rev MacQueen in 1914, the property was sold once again. From 1916 *Pontresina*, with its grounds of one and half acres (6092 m²) was owned by William Coleman Woodhouse, until it was transferred in 1920 to William Bramwell Booth, Director of Social Work of the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army operated charitable institutions for the care of children in all states of Australia from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and was instrumental in establishing industrial schools in Australia.

The move to establish a new form of residential care and schooling of destitute children originated in England and Ireland in the 1850s. England's 1857 *Industrial Schools Act* allowed for impoverished, orphaned or neglected children to be placed in boarding schools where they were given some education and training in a trade. The Act also provided for disorderly children to be placed in these schools with the aim of providing moral instruction and preventing future criminal behaviour. Similar legislation followed in Ireland and Scotland in the 1860s.

Victoria was the first of the Australian colonies to pass similar legislation in 1864. Queensland followed - passing the *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act* in 1865. This Act enabled both neglected children and young offenders younger than 15 years to be placed in special "industrial schools" or orphanages. All Aboriginal children were considered to be neglected and could be therefore removed to these institutions or to Missions which were declared under the Act to be industrial schools. At this time, most orphanages were operated by the churches, predominantly the Catholic Church and the Salvation Army.

There was some debate in the nineteenth century in Queensland about the most suitable model of care for neglected children and many children were "boarded out" to foster families. However, the Government saw institutions as more economically viable and continued to support the use of children's homes run by the various religious denominations. After the economic collapse of 1866, Brisbane's orphanages were overflowing. The Diamantina Orphanage, privately established at Roma Street in 1865, came under the control of Queensland Government control after the passing of the *Orphanages Act* of 1879. The 1865 *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act* was repealed by the *State Children Act* 1911 and by the 1930s, there were 22 residential institutions in Queensland for children, five of which were run by the Salvation Army.

The industrial schools had a specific focus on "delinquent" girls who had committed crimes or transgressed the sexual mores of the time. Industrial schools for girls in Brisbane included the Home of the Good Shepherd at Mitchelton (1930-1966) and the Industrial School for Girls at Nudgee (1903-1942) – both established by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy and the Anglican Industrial School for Girls at Clayfield (1903 -1920). The Salvation Army established the Industrial School for Girls, Toowong (1907-1956) before opening a second home at 'Pontresina' in 1923. The State Government paid a weekly sum to these organisations towards the costs of caring for the girls.

The semi-rural environment of Chelmer and surrounding suburbs during the early decades of the twentieth century was seen as providing an ideal location for neglected and impoverished children. *The Sunday Mail* noted on 24 March 1929, that:

... scattered among the four suburbs are institutions with a wider appeal, and a wider field of service, attracted to the district by its healthy climate. Among these are the Home for Girls, established by the Salvation Army at Chelmer, the Red Cross Convalescent Home at Corinda, and the W.R. Black Home for Children at Chelmer.

The Salvation Army continued to care for girls in the home at Chelmer until 1961, however, after 1941, girls

under the care of the State were no longer placed there. By the 1950s, the Queensland Government was moving towards a “welfare” model of care for children which favoured family group homes and transition hostels and many of the Industrial School type institutions were closed or adapted for a different model of care. The *Children’s Service Act 1965* introduced legislation that reflected this change of philosophy.

Under Salvation Army ownership, the house and grounds were subsequently developed and used as a women’s refuge, centre for the mentally handicapped and eventually as Warrina Village Nursing Home, an aged care facility.

The Salvation Army vacated the property at 66 Longman Terrace in 2012 and sold the site in 2014. The buildings around the former ‘Pontresina’ have been removed and there are plans to develop a new aged care facility on the site.

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 a substantial, two storey, brick residence on large grounds, which provides evidence representing Chelmer’s development as a fashionable, residential suburb during the late nineteenth century.

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city’s or local area’s history

for the evidence it provides of the use of large homes in Chelmer and other suburbs of Brisbane as children’s residential institutions in line with the provision of such welfare services by religious organisations under the State Children Act of 1911.

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 use as a charitable institution from 1923 until 2013 by the Salvation Army who have made a significant contribution to the provision of welfare services in Brisbane since the nineteenth century.

References

1. *Title deeds*, Department of Natural Resources
2. *Walter Taylor South Character and Heritage Study*, BCC Heritage Unit, 1997
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
5. *Chelmer Through the Years 1860-1973*, Cyril Bodes
6. *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 5, 1851-1890*
7. www.apex.net.au/~tmj/montefiore.htm
8. Find and Connect website. <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00090b.htm#tab5>. Viewed 13 Mar 2015
9. Salvation Army Institutions for children in Australia. Submissions to Australian Senate Enquiry 2003. http://salvos.org.au/scribe/sites/safesalvos/files/List_of_TSA_Childrens_homes.pdf. Viewed 13 Mar 2015
10. Commission of Enquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland institutions. (Leneen Forde AC). 1999
11. *Sunday Mail*, 24 Mar 1929
12. Ivan McDonald Architects. Mt Maria College Conservation Management Plan. 2011
13. Brisbane History West website. Viewed 27 Apr 2015. <https://brisbanehistorywest.wordpress.com/2015/01/08/reflections-on-2014/>
14. *Brisbane Courier*, 19 Oct 1889, 4 Oct 1918
15. *Telegraph*, 10 Sept 1909
16. *Sunday Mail* noted on 24 Mar 1929

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