

Heritage Citation



Shophouse

Key details

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| Also known as | Milton & Cameron's Cabinet Works |
| Addresses | At 5 Dickson Street, Woolloowin, Queensland 4030 |
| Type of place | Shop/s, Shophouse |
| Period | World War I 1914-1918 |
| Style | Queenslander |
| Lot plan | L1_RP82229 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2013 |

Construction

Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific; (D) Representative

This corner shop/house was built in 1914 for Emily Melton for her husband's cabinetmaking business of Cameron, Melton & Co Ltd. The firm was also known as Milton & Cameron's Cabinet Works. In 1916, the shop/house was leased by the neighbouring 'The Elite Picture Gardens' theatre. From 1923, it was Whitmee's confectionary shop and family residence. In 1947, it returned to a cabinetmaker's workshop run by the Manning family. In 1979, the property was resumed by the Main Roads Department, for use in a proposed North-east Freeway Project.

History

The land on which this shop is situated was originally part of a large block, described as Portion 194 in the Parish of Enoggera that was first sold as freehold land on 26 April 1859. Brisbane residents, the brothers John and Aaron Adsett paid £50 for 50 acres of undeveloped land. Land developer and farmer George Cowlshaw bought Portion 194, together with adjoining Portion 197 in October 1881. He subdivided his 98 acres and 2 roods of land and commenced land sale in September 1882. This sale, along with the adjoining land (98 acres) that Cowlshaw bought in October 1881 from Judge's Associate Robert L. Thorrold, was combined to create a new suburb named 'Thorrolldtown'.

The commencement of the Sandgate Railway in 1880 led an increase in population and development in Brisbane's north-eastern suburbs. Wooloowin (then named Lutwyche) Railway Station opened in 1881. It was renamed Wooloowin in 1890. Due to a rail regrading in 1900, the station was moved north 140 metres, thereby placing it closer to the future site of 102 Dickson Street. In May 1901, twin platforms and a new brick station building, with a distinctive gabled roof with a small, decorative ventilation tower atop were completed. The new Wooloowin Station attracted businesses and residents to this part of 'Thorrolldtown'.

In 1883, Catherine N. Cottell had acquired Subdivisions 417 to 420, a total of 2 roods and .9 perches that included the land that became 5 Dickson Street. Between 1885 and 1914, Cottell's Wooloowin land holdings underwent numerous ownership changes and further re-subdivisions, until this property was finally described as subdivision B of resubdivision 1 of subdivisions 417 and B of Portion 194 plus subdivisions 1-2 of resubdivision B of resubdivisions 2-4 and 115 of Portion 193.

On 18 June 1914, Emily I. Melton, the wife of Frederick A. Melton, acquired this block of land that comprised 1 rood and 25.1 perches. This large suburban block that was close to the new Wooloowin Station included the site of 5 Dickson Street. On 9 September 1914, Melton mortgaged her land for £200 through the Bank of North Queensland. This loan may have been used to construct the building at 5 Dickson Street.

The two-storey shop/house at 5 Dickson Street was constructed quickly, during the final months of 1914. The shop was leased, for the first time on 25 January 1915, with the Brisbane Courier advertising for a machine man (first class) to build cabinets for Cameron & Melton on 18 February. The 15 year lease (ended 4 February 1930)

was granted by Melton to her husband Frederick A. Melton, John S. Irvine, Charles W. Cameron and John Bond. The four men were the principals of the furniture-making firm of Milton & Cameron's Cabinet Works. This local manufacturing company were also known as Cameron, Melton & Co Ltd.

The shop/house was soon sold to Brisbane solicitor Patrick A. O'Sullivan on 5 February 1915. But the original lease allowed Cameron, Melton & Co Ltd to operate from this strategic spot until February 1916. O'Sullivan still had the large, 2 roods, 20.1 perch block that had developed into a commercial precinct (the 'Woolloowin Shops') close to the railway station. The 'Electa Picture Palace' had been built in 1914 beside the Milton & Cameron's Cabinet Works building. It screened silent films and was a dance venue. It changed its name to 'The Elite Picture Gardens' and it was under this name that it undertook an 18 year lease of the building from O'Sullivan on 28 February 1916. O'Sullivan also utilised his large block for investment purposes, securing 3 mortgages worth £1,100, on his property from 1915 to 1920. In 1923, the 'The Elite Picture Gardens' were demolished and a new 'Elite Theatre' was built. It closed in 1933. 'The Elite Picture Gardens' retained use of the shop/house at 5 Dickson Street until 1923.

O'Sullivan died on 23 December 1921 and his widow Mary B. O'Sullivan. On 24 July 1923, Mary sold-off just the block that contained the 5 Dickson Street shop/house to Laura E. Varendorff, the wife of Lewis G. Varendorff. They acquired the building and a 28.5 perch block that backed onto the rail line. The property was only held for a short time before it was sold Henry and Rose Whitmee on 7 November 1923.

Confectioner, Henry Whitmee, resided upstairs with his family and he ran the downstairs shop as a general store until 1929. Thereafter he leased the shop to R.H. Taylor until c1933 and to J. Mitchell thereafter. The upstairs residence was rented to Daniel O'Donohue from 1936. Rose Whitmee died on 12 July 1935. In September 1935, during the middle of the Great Depression, Henry Whitmee took out a loan against his home and business at 5 Dickson Street.

Roylance and Mabel Manning bought the shop/house on 1 May 1946. The next year, they sold the property to Elizabeth and John Major. The next owners were Edith and John Shannon who acquired 5 Dickson Street on 19 January 1951. The Shannons, who operated a cabinetmakers business from 5 Dickson Street, owned the property for the next 28 years and they made many changes to the building. The Brisbane City Council approved an extension to the building on 17 November 1952. Permission was granted for the construction of a cabinetmaker's workshop on the site on 17 March 1953. This approval was given under the proviso that an existing old workshop be removed or demolished. This old workshop may have dated back to Milton & Cameron's Cabinet Works' lease of the site in 1915-16. The Shannons lived above their cabinetmaker's shop and they were granted permission on 27 December 1956 to add a new laundry and toilet/water closet (W.C.) to their home. Further changes to the shop/house were approved in 1957.

In 1970, Edith Shannon applied to have a new building with shops built on her property. Permission was not granted by Council. By 1972, the Shannons were leasing the shop/house to TRI-STEEL Industries. On 29 October 1973, Council refused permission to TRI-STEEL to add a combined car port and patio to the timber shop/house. The Queensland Department of Main Roads acquired 5 Dickson Street on 26 July 1979, as part of its multiple property resumptions for a proposed major road project. This project was known as the 'North-east Freeway' that was meant to build a transport corridor that directly linked Gympie Road to Sandgate Road. In 1979, these were Brisbane's two major northern exit roads. This project was later scrapped in favour of the Gateway Arterial Road and the Airport Link Tunnel.

In July 2000, this shop/house was recognised for its heritage significance, when it was entered as the fifth stop along the Windsor & Districts Historical Society's 'Thorroltdown' and 'Maida Hill' heritage trail. On 1 January

2004, the heritage significance of the 5 Dickson Street was recognised by the Brisbane City Council, when it was entered onto the City Plan Heritage Register (CPHR).

Surviving timber shop/houses are rare in Brisbane, with less than 20 remaining. They are usually isolated buildings, situated along a main suburban thoroughfare and scattered around the pre-1945 inner suburbs. Thus the nearest timber shop/houses to 5 Dickson Street, can be seen at nearby 109 Adamson Street, Woolloowin and then further afield at 221 Lutwyche Road, Windsor. The shop/house at 5 Dickson Street is a remnant of the early twentieth century Woolloowin commercial precinct, known as the 'Woolloowin Shops'. It is one only three surviving buildings of this precinct. The others are a row (two) of single-storey timber shops located at 17 Dickson Street and another shop/house at 109 Adamson Street. The former Holy Cross Laundry at 60 Bridge Street may also be considered as a remnant of this Woolloowin commercial precinct.

Description

This is a two-storey, weatherboard, corner shop-house. It has a front verandah on the second floor and a galvanised iron roofed and timber posts shop awning that extends from the front out to the street guttering. This shade awning extends around both corners of the building.

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 remnant of the 'Woolloowin Shops', constructed from 1901 around the new Woolloowin Station.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as a shop/house building constructed for industrial rather than retail purposes.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history

having occupied the same corner site for nearly 100 years.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a good, intact example of a two-storey, timber shop house.

References

1. Brisbane City Council, 1946 & 2011 aerial photographs
2. Brisbane City Council, post-1946 Building Cards
3. Brisbane City Council, Drainage Plan No.23049, 1 March 1938
4. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
5. Brisbane City Council, Sewerage Detail Map, No.465A, October 1936
6. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
7. Kerr, John 1988, *Brunswick Street, Bowen Hills and Beyond: The Railways of the Northern Suburbs of Brisbane*, Australian Railway Historical Society
8. *Queensland Post Office Directories, 1868-1949*
9. "General Employment" in *Brisbane Courier*, 18 February 1914
10. Windsor & Districts Historical Society, *A Walk Through The History Of Thorroldtown & Maida Hill*, (Brisbane: Windsor & Districts Historical Society, 2000)
11. Windsor & 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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