

Heritage Citation



Story Bridge Hotel

Key details

Addresses	At 200 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Queensland 4169
Type of place	Hotel (pub)
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Filigree
Lot plan	L10_SP192742; L11_SP192742; L12_SP192742; L5_SP198092; L4_SP193209; L822_SP192737; L2_SP193207; L3_SP193210; L813_SP192741; L5_SP193201 ; L6_SP193211; L4_SP193212; L106_SP196993; L119_SP196969; L811_SP192742; L812_SP192742; L1_SP193199; L1_SP193204; L101_SP196984; L107_SP196982; L108_SP196982; L810_SP192742; L120_SP196969
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — September 2010

Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry - Render
People/associations	Richard Gailey (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

This iconic hotel was built in 1885 for James Darragh and first opened as the Kangaroo Point Hotel, the name of the previous hotel on the site. Located on the main thoroughfare, it provided an ideal location to attract clientele and after the construction of the Story Bridge in the 1930s, was renamed the Story Bridge Hotel to take advantage of its proximity to the local landmark. The hotel has undergone a number of additions and modifications since the 1920s but was largely restored in the late 1980s. Built in the ornate Victorian Filigree style, the hotel was designed by prominent Brisbane architect, Richard Gailey.

History

The Story Bridge Hotel was built for Brisbane publican ,James Darragh, in 1885, replacing an earlier hotel building on the site. A hotel has been located on the corner of Main and Wilson (now Baildon) Street since circa 1878. The earlier hotel on the site was called the Logan Hotel. The name was changed to the Kangaroo Point Hotel around the time of the construction of the new hotel, while under the proprietorship of James Darragh.¹

The hotel was designed in the ornate Victorian Filigree style by Richard Gailey, one of Brisbane’s most prolific architects. After training as an architect in Donegal, Ireland, Gailey immigrated to Australia in 1864 and arrived in Brisbane in 1864. He set up his own architectural practice the following year and continued working until his death in 1924. He designed many impressive commercial buildings, specialising in hotels. Other Brisbane hotels designed by Gailey include the Regatta Hotel at Toowong (1886) and the Empire Hotel in Fortitude Valley (1887-89).

The Story Bridge Hotel (as it is now known) was not the first hotel to be established at Kangaroo Point. Other hotels such as the Bush Inn and the Commercial Inn predate the hotel.² However, the establishment of this hotel at this locality and the subsequent construction of a new hotel in 1886 mark the consolidation of industry and commerce and the area as a village.

Strategically located on a main thoroughfare with ferry terminals to the city either end of the peninsula, close to industry, commerce, the city, and working class housing, the hotel position was ideal.³

With the hotel, at this time (1880s), being the only licensed premises located at this end of Kangaroo Point success was assured and the construction of the new hotel in 1886 reflects the confidence the owners had in the commercial future of the hotel and the area. There can be little doubt the hotel, at times, would have been the centre of the small community's focus.

Pat Reynolds operated the first hotel on the site in the 1860s.⁴ James Darragh took over the hotel in the mid 1860s and eventually moved it as a business to the corner of Main and Wilson Streets in 1878. Apparently the hotel was first located on the “other side of the street.”⁵ Over the subsequent years the proprietorship alternated

between James and Henry Darragh. The family in addition to being involved in the local hotel, which not only gave them a high profile in the community and an ability to increase their wealth, purchased a number of properties in the area.⁶ The present Darragh St in Kangaroo Point is named after the Darragh family. Shortly after the construction of the hotel in 1886 Peter McGuinness took over the hotel, although James Darragh again resumed control in 1896 and then operated by another member of the Darragh family, Miss A.L. Darragh in 1900.⁷

By 1924 the hotel was nearly 40 years old, and renovation was overdue. The hotel was altered substantially on the outside to give it a more “modern” appearance. Some prominent visual items such as the verandahs were removed. These exterior alterations were retained until the hotel underwent restoration by owner Barry Deery in the late 1980s.^{9 10}

The construction of the Jubilee Bridge (later to be called the Story Bridge) in the mid 1930s and the influx of workmen to the area, ensured clientele compensation for the removal of houses in the area for the hotel. The hotel was quick to capitalise on the changing circumstance of the area, changing its name from the Kangaroo Point Hotel to the Story Bridge Hotel in c.1941/42.^{11 12} The construction of the bridge has also instigated other changes such as a sign above the hotel at eye level designed to attract travellers who utilise the Story Bridge.

During the threat of invasion in World War II roofless bomb shelters were constructed under the bridge near the rear of the hotel in 1941-42.¹³ In late 1970 Deery Hotels Pty Ltd applied to the Brisbane City Council to alter these shelters.¹⁴ At present they are operated as a storage area and bottle shop. The hotel also underwent renovation and change through the 1950s and 1960s. The then proprietor of the hotel I & E Humphries put an addition to the hotel in 1954, and a cold room in the following year. Other smaller additions, such as a car port, occurred in 1960s.¹⁵

The hotel has been a meeting place for the Kangaroo Point community for well over a century.

Description

The Story Bridge Hotel is located on the corner of Main and Baidon Streets opposite a corner store. It is a 3 storey, rendered brick Victorian style hotel. Verandahs line the upper floors of the building supported by paired timber posts. The verandahs are decorated with cast iron balustrades, brackets and frieze. A substantial curved awning supported by paired posts rising from rendered impact casings extend over the footpaths. The hotel has recently been restored according to early photographic evidence to its original form.

The building is crowned with a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron. Two brick chimneys extend from the roof as does a large illuminated sign visible from the bridge behind.

French windows with fanlights open onto the verandahs. The building curves around the street corner with more closely spaced verandah posts. The main entry point to the building on Main Street is defined by a curved iron pediment. The underside of the footpath awnings are lined with a cast iron frieze.

A single storey wing on Main Street added at a later date has been remodelled in a sympathetic style with an awning over the street and parapet design of a similar era.

This impressive building and the corner store opposite form a commercial node characterised by the two solid, 2-3 storey masonry buildings addressing each street corner with post supported awnings over the footpaths, upper

level verandahs and pitched roofs.

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 an 1880s hotel that provides evidence of the residential and commercial development of Kangaroo Point in the 19th century.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a well-designed and ornately decorative hotel which is a landmark on a prominent corner site.

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 a popular social venue and local landmark frequented by residents of Kangaroo Point and the surrounding communities since the nineteenth century.

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 a good example of an 1880s hotel designed by prominent Brisbane architect, Richard Gailey.

References

1. Merle Norris. (Comp) *Brisbane Hotels and Publications Index: 1842 - 1900*. Brisbane History Group Sources No.6, 1993. p.31. & Queensland Post Office Directory.1876 -1888
2. *Brisbane Hotels and Publications Index: 1842 - 1900*. p.31
3. Advertisement for the Kangaroo Point Hotel, undated. Located in BBC heritage file on Kangaroo Point Hotel
4. *Brisbane Hotels and Publications Index: 1842 - 1900*. p.31
5. Photocopy of newspaper article in the National Trust files on Kangaroo Point. It is likely to be an article from the Telegraph from July 1929 or July 1939. Queensland Post Office Directories. 1868 - 1890
6. Certificates of Title.
7. *Brisbane Hotels and Publications Index: 1842 - 1900*. p.31
8. Queensland Post Office Directories. 1905 - 1910
9. Brisbane City Council Electronic records
10. *Courier Mail*, 19 October, 1983
11. Post Office Directories. p.97 (1941) & p.93 (1942)
12. Douglas, K. *A Portrait of Brisbane*. (Bathurst: Robert Brown, 1988). p.10
13. "Air Raid Shelters: Story Bridge - South Approach." Plan, Brisbane City Council Dept of Works and Building Branch. Copy held Air Raid Shelters, Heritage Unit Files
14. Brisbane City Council Building Cards. Held on Microfilm No: M043 - 006 - 051
15. *Ibid*

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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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