

Queensland's Multicultural Heritage

Queensland is a vibrant, multicultural society, with a long history of settlement by people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Over the years many groups of people have developed special associations with a variety of places in Queensland, some of which are entered in the Queensland Heritage Register and protected under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. These places include the Chinese temple at Atherton, the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St Nicholas in Brisbane, the Hotel Corones in Charleville, the Japanese Consulate known as "Kardinia" in Townsville, the Hebrew Synagogue in Brisbane, the Australian South Sea Islander meeting hall at Homebush, and the Marble Cafe at Childers, developed by the Cominos brothers who came to Queensland from Greece.

The conservation of places such as these brings formal recognition and a greater appreciation of the important contributions made by many cultural groups to Queensland's social and economic development. Our multicultural heritage places also offer a wonderful snapshot of Queensland's emerging multicultural society and are good examples of a building's ability to contribute a sense of identity and continuity for members of a community.



Kardinia

If houses could talk "Kardinia" might well relate one of the most fascinating stories in North

Queensland history. As the Japanese Consulate, "Kardinia" provided the setting for early trade negotiations between Australia and Japan. Erected during the boom years of the 1880s, this decorative single-storeyed timber residence was originally comprised of two rooms with a surrounding verandah. In 1886 the house was extended and greatly altered to provide a home for the Police Magistrate, John Graham Macdonald. From

1896 to 1908 "Kardinia" became home to Australia's first Japanese Consulate. The Japanese, anxious not to offend local sensibilities in any way, wanted to lease a house in local architectural style rather than build a house in traditional Japanese design.

"Kardinia" was perfect by design and heritage, having belonged to the towns most prominent legal representative. During its years as the Japanese Consulate, "Kardinia" echoed to the sounds of firework displays that celebrated the birthday of the Emperor of Japan and welcomed the admirals of visiting Japanese fleets.



Hotel Corones

The Hotel Corones in Charleville demonstrates the prosperity and the changing fortunes of the pastoral industry in south-west Queensland.

Harry "Poppa" Corones built his hotel, which was to become a byword for hospitality in the west, during the economic boom years of the 1920s.

Construction of Corones Hotel Norman, as it was then called, started in 1924 on the site of the old Norman Hotel. Built in four stages from south to north to enable continuation of trade, the hotel eventually stretched almost an entire block of Charleville's main street. *According to the Architectural & Building Journal of Queensland the hotel was a magnificent white building...an outstanding feature in a progressive town...the best equipped and most up-to-date hotel outside the metropolis...generally acknowledged as the calling-place of all distinguished tourists and travellers....*

The hotel included a dining room that was capable of seating 150 people, a private bar screened from the public bar by a French polished oak partition with mirrors and Corones Hall, capable of seating 320 at dinner and

greatly in demand for exclusive balls, parties and banquets.

For over thirty years the Hotel Corones flourished with a steady clientele of tourists, pastoralists and commercial travellers. Harry Corones' advertisements and stationery proclaimed vice-regal patronage. In addition to wealthy local graziers, celebrities such as Amy Johnson, Gracie Fields, and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were guests at the Hotel. During World War II when American servicemen occupied the local aerodrome and hospital, Poppa Corones did a roaring trade with dances held every night in Corones Hall. Harry came to hold a very prominent place in the Charleville community, often helping other Greek immigrants establish themselves in business. In 1965, Harry Corones was awarded an Order of the British Empire for the commitment he had made to his new country. The Hotel Corones continues to operate as both a local pub and a tourist attraction in south-west Queensland.



The Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St Nicholas

The Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St Nicholas is a good example of the importance of conserving buildings that contribute to a community's sense of identity and continuity. It is also representative of emigration patterns in Queensland, and the important contributions made

by the Russian community to the development of Queensland's multicultural heritage.

Russian emigration to Queensland began in the early 1800s and increased substantially in the early years of the twentieth century. As a result of political upheaval in Russia, Queensland's largest intake of Russian immigrants occurred between 1911 and 1914. Many Russian immigrants during this period were considered radical or revolutionaries by Russian authorities and were seeking asylum from Tsarist political repression in the final chaotic years of the Russian Empire.

Australia's encouragement of Russian immigration ceased in 1918, and was prohibited later that year due to the escalation of a violent civil war in Russia that lasted until 1922. However, with large numbers of "White Russians" (monarchists and anti-communists), fleeing the Soviet Union during this period and applying to emigrate to Australia, the government was forced to relax its immigration restrictions. The result was an influx of White Russian emigres to Brisbane in the early 1920s, which prompted the establishment of the city's first Russian Orthodox parish at Woolloongabba.

Construction of a purpose-designed Russian Orthodox church became a priority for Brisbane's Russian community and in 1933 fund-raising began for the new church. With the assistance of engineers and parishioners Gregory Mechonoshin and Mr Golovzinn, and architects Cavanagh & Cavanagh, construction began in 1935 and was completed on 4 October 1936.

The Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St Nicholas remains integral to the survival of Russian culture and religion in Brisbane. Services are conducted in the liturgical language, Church Slavonic, and for many years the church has maintained an important library of Russian works. A large part of Russian cultural identity in Brisbane remains bound with the traditions of Russian Orthodoxy. St Nicholas' Cathedral and its conservation are important to Queensland's multicultural heritage.

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Information in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing but may be subject to change.



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